

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

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement
Port Republic, NJ
November 17, 2014

ROLL CALL: Chairman: Walter L. Johnson III (Ocean County)
Vice Chairman: John Maxwell (Atlantic County)
Councilman: Walter Hughes (Monmouth County)
Councilman: *Vacant* (Burlington County)
Councilman: *Vacant* (Cape May County)

DEP Representatives: Jeffrey C. Normant, Bureau of Shellfisheries
Jenny Tomko, Bureau of Shellfisheries

Mr. Normant read the State's compliance with the Sunshine Law and announced that the meeting would be recorded. Notice was filed with the Secretary of State Office and newspapers designated by the Department.

1. Total Revenue for October 2014: \$ 1,181.06
Shellfisheries Law Enforcement Fund \$ 460.00

2. Presentation of October 20, 2014 minutes for approval.

The minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting were presented for consideration and approved on a motion by Mr. Hughes, which was seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

3. Applications for Consideration

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
John Gregg	887	B	1.35	Parker Cove_LEHB	5D

Mr. Normant provided the Council with copies of the lease application. Mr. Gregg was present. Mr. Normant stated that a biological survey was completed in the spring for another applicant who was approved by the Council, but did not follow through in signing his lease agreement and paying his lease fees. The application was cancelled. Pursuant to leasing regulations, N.J.A.C.7:25-24.6, the applicant must attend one of two meetings at which the Council reviews their application. A decision on the lease application would be rendered at the next meeting.

4. Applications for Decision

LESSEE	LOT #	SECTION	ACRES	LOCATION	MAP#
Douglas E. Price	1029	A	2.08	Great Sound	5D
Michael E. Bryant	1099	A	2.06	Great Sound	5D
Michael Pawlowski	398	B	2.81	GB Big Creek	10D
Maureen McCarthy	1434	B	2.00	Middle Island_LEHB	6.1
Donald F. Burke	14	D	2.00	Swan Point	1

Mr. Normant provided the Council with copies of the lease applications. Mr. Burke was present at the prior meeting. Mr. Burke's lease application was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Hughes and a second by Mr. Maxwell. Mr. Normant stated that the applicant had 30 days to sign his lease agreement.

Messrs. Price, Bryant and Pawlowski and Mrs. M. McCarthy were not present at this meeting and did not attend the previous meeting. As per the leasing regulations, N.J.A.C. 7:75-24.6, their applications were cancelled.

Mr. Maxwell inquired about Mrs. McCarthy's lease application, 1434, in Middle Island Channel. Mr. Normant informed the Council that area of the proposed lease was found to be productive for hard clams and some submerged aquatic vegetation was observed. Mr. Johnson inquired if the Bureau was going to investigate locations adjacent to Middle Island for potential aquaculture leases. Mr. Normant stated that the Bureau was investigating several lease applications on a hard sand flat just outside of Middle Island for potential structural shellfish aquaculture leases.

5. Old Business:

Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay Shellfisheries Leasing Committees

Mrs. Tomko announced that the Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay sections of the Shellfisheries Councils were in the process of reconvening their respective Leasing Committees. The standing Atlantic Coast Leasing Committee (ACLC) members were notified by mail regarding the reconvening of the ACLC and requested that these members contact the Bureau as to whether they would continue to serve.

The ACLC meetings would be held at the Nacote Creek Enforcement Office on January 7 at 2 PM. The ACLC meeting would be advertised with the Secretary of the State, on the Division website and with the Bureau of Shellfish email listserve. Committee recommendations would be made on a consensus basis and the meeting would be open to the public.

Aquaculture Advisory Committee (AAC)

The next AAC meeting would be held on January 23 at 10 AM. The meeting location would be determined at a later date.

6. New Business:

Clamming Issue

Mr. William Avery stated that he had observed individuals clamming under the Margate Causeway Bridge near shellfish leases. Mr. Avery inquired if these actions were against regulations. Mr. Johnson stated that he should contact Marine Enforcement.

Marine Fisheries Council

Mr. Johnson stated that members of the Marine Fisheries Council were now required to complete ethics reporting requirements, which was something the Shellfisheries Council members have done for a number of years.

Richard Stockton College Marine Science and Environmental Field Station Surveys

Mr. Normant stated that the Bureau had partnered with Richard Stockton College to fund an oyster spat monitoring program in the Great Bay -Mullica River system. Stockton College concluded their survey for 2014 and was in the process of completing the report. The Bureau plans on developing this as a long term monitoring program.

Mr. Normant also discussed that the Richard Stockton College Marine Science and Environmental Field Station staff and students were currently gathering side scan sonar and multi-beam sonar data within the Great Bay - Mullica River Estuary, Barnegat Bay Estuary, and adjacent local areas in an effort to better understand New Jersey's coastal benthic habitats. These images provide a new view of the bathymetry of these estuaries as well as the type of habitats present. Of these habitats, Stockton has been able to gather sonar images of established oyster reef beds, including areas like French's Point, Moss's Point, and Fitney Bit.

Unidentified Algae or Fungus

Mr. Maxwell stated that he has observed an unfamiliar type of fungus or algae in the bay by Graveling Point earlier this year. Mr. Maxwell stated that he would like to drop of a sample to the Bureau for possible identification.

Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring

The Council recommended that Bob Shuster from the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring attend the Council Meeting in March to discuss the 2015 Vp plan and other water quality updates.

There being no further business, 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: December 15, 2014
 - TIME: 7 PM
 - LOCATION: Law Enforcement Office
360 New York Rd. Rte. 9
Port Republic, NJ 08241