

MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE

ALASKA DIVISION of
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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COMMUNITY
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DEVELOPMENT

**Alaska Mariculture Task Force
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 @ 9:00am AST

State Office Building, 9th Floor, Conference Room D 333 Willoughby Ave., Juneau, AK 99801

1) Roll call – Chair Decker calls meeting to order at 9:03am AST.

MTF Members Present:

- Julie Decker – AFDF (online)
- Heather McCarty – Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association
- Mike Stekoll – University of Alaska
- Sam Rabung – ADFG
- Jim Andersen - ADCCED
- Angel Drobnica - APICDA
- Jeff Hetrick – Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery (online)
- Ed Douville – Shaan Seet Corporation (online)
- Melissa Good – ASGA (on behalf of Ginny Eckert, online)
- Eric Wyatt – Blue Starr Oyster Company (online)
- Kate Sullivan – SARDFA (late, online)

Public Participants Present

- Riley Smith – AFDF (online)
- Willow Hetrick – Chugach Regional Resources Commission (online)
- Brittney Smith – ADNR (online)
- Tommy Sheridan – Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (late, online)

2) Review and approve agenda

Motion (McCarty/Rabung) to approve agenda. Motion passes with no objections.

3) Review and approve minutes: NA.

4) Public introductions & comments: None.

5) Updates by MTF members:

- Decker – news from Alaska Development Team: Administration has approved adding capacity to ADNR to help with application backlog. FY21 budget will have two FT positions dedicated to mariculture (two temporary positions in place now).
- McCarty – Alaska Development Team is focused on legislation that the MTF have forwarded (HB41 and HB116) and have been working to support MTF positions.

6) Old Business: NA.

7) New Business:

a. Discuss & approve submission of “Mariculture Proposal to the EVOS Trustee Council”

- Decker – opportunity to use the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) funds for habitat restoration and mariculture development, with focus on the goals of the Plan. Time is of the essence with EVOS Trustee Council (oversees funding allocations) set to meet week of November 15th. Draft proposal presented to Alaska Development Team; feedback was that a better approach is to provide a Letter of Intent to the Trustees.
- McCarty – we were encouraged to submit a proposal to EVOS. Proposal needs to be much more specific (including the priorities of the Council that would be met). Letter of Intent as a placeholder for more detailed proposal. Biggest question is who would be the potential entity to accept and manage the funds?
- Rabung – formation of the Alaska Mariculture Development Council (AMDC) is a priority for this proposal and one of the priority goals of the Plan.
- McCarty – Trustees will hold a retreat (mid-November to mid-December), and a public meeting on February 28th. Proposals should be in before the February meeting. In order to submit a proposal for this, the AMDC needs to be formed or outlined in detail.
- Rabung – MTF does not currently have the authority to receive funds. With bylaws, articles of incorporation, etc., the MTF could inexpensively become a non-profit to receive funds.
- McCarty – although authorizing receipt of funding for the MTF would be quick, incorporating the MTF as a non-profit would take much longer.
- Andersen - Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund has the ability to receive any funding.
- Stekoll – establishing the AMDC as a non-profit is a priority.
- Rabung/McCarty – AFDF could receive the funding, manage funds and distribute funds to the AMDC. AFDF already receives and manages federal grant funding, goal of AMDC is to be industry driven and AFDF is well positioned to accomplish this.
- Decker – AFDF is a nonprofit. Could the state receive funds on behalf of the AMDC?
- Andersen – No. Additionally, the AMDC accepting regional funding and choosing the EVOS region to develop mariculture in Alaska would not be appropriate. People in the region will want the EVOS funding spent there. Prince William Sound, Homer, Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Sand Point centric activities would be expected to be the focus. Also, the EVOS region may require a broader representation in the AMDC. Any project would need to be in the EVOS area.
- Stekoll – difference between spending funding *in* and *for* the region is an important distinction.
- Good – Project Manager should report to the AMDC to ensure alignment with statewide development. Concern regarding underrepresentation of other regions of Alaska with such a region—focused program proposal. The other areas without the funding often drop off the radar. Any other funding sources?
- Decker –The MTF has been looking for other funding sources for other regions as well. This is the first and best opportunity to date. This opportunity was recommended to the MTF by the state.

- McCarty – there is a real opportunity for the EVOS principle to be broken up and given to other entities across the state. As a primer to our proposal, we wanted to make sure to meet the EVOS program priorities.
- Hetrick – last fall there was a lot of intrigue into EVOS as EVOS started taking proposals outside their workplan due to lack of participation by local and native communities. Alutiiq Pride submitted a project proposal to recreate the clam restoration from 20 years ago. This gained zero traction. Any mariculture development in southcentral Alaska would certainly apply to the rest of Alaska and help move things forward. Alutiiq Pride developed a mariculture Board 25 years ago due to the demand from industry to have a research component to the hatchery. Template may be helpful to develop the AMDC.
- Willow Hetrick – a lot of people going after EVOS funding, Alutiiq Pride is navigating heavy competition with native organizations. I will forward template for the Alutiiq Pride mariculture Board to MTF.

Motion (McCarty/Rabung) to approve Letter of Intent to EVOS Trustee Council with the following amendments: 1) change “replace Task Force” to “continue the mission of the Task Force”, 2) add in a request for feedback and meetings with the EVOS staff at closing of letter, 3) letter will be signed by Mariculture Task Force as the entity. Motion passes unanimously.

b. Discuss & approve priority actions

- Decker – MTF will sunset in June of 2021. Because of this, it is very important to clearly outline the priority tasks of the Action Plan for the next 18 months. Focus on next 6 months is directed by the legislative session and EVOS opportunity.

i. List of Priority Actions - draft

- **6 months:**
 - EVOS funding proposal
 - Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund – increase the corpus of the Fund
 - Legislation (HB 41, HB 116, ASMI, DEC fees, other issues)
 - DNR reg changes
- **18 months:**
 - Alaska Mariculture Development Council
 - Plan for regional hatchery production

Motion (McCarty/Anderson) to approve the priority actions for the next 6 months and 18 months with the following amendments: 1) add “and others” to the “EVOS funding proposal” listing, 2) remove “DEC fees” from list. Motion passes unanimously.

Task: add a discussion of the DEC user fees to the agenda for the next MTF meeting on December 13th, 2019 (Decker).

Task: add the NOAA Workshop to the agenda for the next MTF meeting on December 13th, 2019 (Decker).

8) Work Groups - review tasks: *Due to time constraints, discussion moved to next meeting.*

9) Set next meeting date and time

December 13th, 2019 @ 8:30am AST. Location and other meeting information TBD.

10) Closing Comments & Adjournment

Chair Decker adjourns meeting at 10:16am AST.

DRAFT