



Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) Meeting Minutes January 11, 2017

Attendees

Mariculture Task Force members attending in person: Julie Decker, Angel Drobnica, Sam Rabung, Eric Wyatt

MTF members attending via teleconference- Jeff Hetrick, Paula Cullenberg, Kate Sullivan, Mike Stekoll

MTF members not present- Heather McCarty, Chris Whitehead, Chris Hladick

Members of the Public: Tomi Marsh- Ocean's Alaska, Tamsen Peeples- Blue Evolution, Kirsten Shelton-Walker- McDowell Group,

Eva Bornstein- Juneau Economic Development Council,

Stephanie Holthaus- The Nature Conservancy,)Anthony Tyberg-Petersburg fisherman,

Abby Twyman- Shikat Bay Oysters, Tommy Sheridan- Silver Bay Seafoods,

Barbara Blake- Office of Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott

Cynthia Pring-ham- Department of Fish and Game

Linda Mattson - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Materials distributed to task force members included: Agenda for January 11 meeting, minutes from November 9 meeting; Phases 2&3 Scope of Work final, advisory committee minutes, MTF Handout, Press Release, Pacific Marine Expo Presentation, ASGA Meeting Presentation, ARPA-E Concept paper template, Aqua-Spark Investment Info.

9:04am Vice-Chair Julie Decker called the meeting to order

Agenda was reviewed

No edits made to the agenda. Sam Rabung motioned to approve, Eric Wyatt seconded.

November 9 meeting minutes were reviewed and changes were made

Sam Rabung motioned to approve the minutes; Angel Drobnica seconded the motion.

Discussion: Sam Rabung requested the following changes be reflected: Christy Collins is Christy Colles, materials distributed agenda for November 9 not September 30, and the definition of mariculture should include that it was defined in Governor Walker's AO 280.

No objections to the motion with the changes made. Minutes approved.

Old Business:

Updates on Contractor for Economic Analysis to Inform the Comprehensive Plan

- McDowell Group and Northern Economics were given the scope of work to submit cost estimates.
- Julie Decker, Sam Rabung, Kate Sullivan, Heather McCarty, and Eric Wyatt will hold a teleconference on Friday at 9:00am to discuss the contractor in further detail.

- Contractor once determined will work with the advisory committees as well as the whole task force to come up with the draft comprehensive plan- September 1 deadline

Updates from Advisory Committee Chairs:

- Mike Stekoll- Environmental Information (December 2 last meeting)
- Sam Rabung- Regulatory Issues (December 8 last meeting)
- Jeff Hetrick & Angel Drobica- the Investment & Infrastructure
- Paula Cullenberg- Workforce Development (November 18 last meeting)
- Heather McCarty- Public Education and Marketing

Notes from AC's

- Research, Development and Environmental Information AC will have another meeting scheduled sometime in January
- Regulatory Issues AC discussion regarding ideas for streamlining regulatory forms online for ease of access and to have a central online location to locate those forms. Eric Wyatt also suggested that there be an example of a successful system and what it looks like with regards to the regulatory process.
- Investment and Infrastructure AC discussion regarding the perspective of Jim Gibbons from Seattle as he provided an outside picture of what it means to invest in Alaska. Takeaway- how to get the message out to change the perspective of an outside investor. Plan to have their next meeting scheduled within a week or two.
- Public Education and Marketing AC discussion no meeting but Heather did complete the handout. It did not print well and Julie Decker will get an updated copy to the task force for their review
- Press release discussion- Barbara Blake was tasked with getting the quotes from Governor Walker approved and DCCED was tasked with sending the final out by Friday, January 13th.
- Workforce Development AC discussion on apprenticeship programs and how to work with the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to encourage new or young farmers to get into the mariculture industry. Training programs through the University of Alaska Southeast were also discussed.

Update on past presentations

- Alaska Shellfish Growers Association meeting for 2017 is scheduled to be held in Ketchikan. Suggestion was made by (whom) to hold Mariculture Task Force meeting there in conjunction.

Update on APRA-E

Concept papers are due February 14 for this project

Updates on potential legislation

Shellfish Enhancement legislation- no update, Sam will check with the Fish & Game legislative liaison to see if the bill was submitted

Micaela Fowler spoke with Darwin Peterson in Governor Walker's office who gave permission for a letter of support as long as the task force approves

Sam Rabung motioned for Julie Decker to draft a letter of support on behalf of the Mariculture Task Force for shellfish enhancement legislation, Eric Wyatt seconded. Motion passed. No objections.

Amendment to Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund- no update, will be on the lookout for the bill to drop.

Eric Wyatt motioned for Julie Decker to draft a letter of support for an amendment to the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund, Angel Drobnica seconded. Motion passed. No objections.

The letters will not be submitted until there is a bill

New Business:

Communications-Upcoming presentation opportunities

- Governor may mention mariculture in his State of the State Address. The Address will be given on January 18.
- NSRAA's Alaska Fish Culture conference. Paula Cullenberg motioned for Sam Rabung to submit a travel request to attend the NSRAA's Conference on behalf of the Mariculture Task Force, Kate Sullivan seconded. Motion passed. No objections.
- JEDC's Innovation Summit – Mike Stekoll will be giving tours of the seaweed hatchery at UAS. Tamsen will present about Blue Evolution and will mention the MTF.
- Presentation to the Legislature – we will pursue a possible presentation the week of Feb. 20th.
- UFA and SE Conference – Julie will pursue a presentation.
- SWAMC – Angel will pursue a presentation.
- Kodiak ComFish – Paula and Erik O'Brien (new seaweed farmer) will look into putting something together.

Updated outline of comprehensive planning process

- from now until April 1- Advisory Committees work with contractor chosen on format and content of report
- April 1- Advisory Committees complete their recommendations to the MTF
- September 1- Draft comprehensive plan completed by contractors for review by MTF
- Sept-December – MTF makes changes appropriate
- January 1, 2018- Public Draft Comprehensive Plan released for public review
- February – MTF incorporates input from the public into final version of comp plan
- March 1 – final version of comp plan transmitted to Governor

New investment interests expressed

- Aqua-Spark: A global equity investment fund focused on the aquaculture industry. Julie Decker has a call scheduled with them to see if they are interested in the Mariculture Task Force and Alaska. She will report back to the task force at the next meeting.

Discussion regarding options for funding to facilitate MTF

- Options included the NOAA grant, potential beneficiaries like large scale entities, foundations, The Nature Conservatory, the Moore Foundation, Mack Foundation, APICDA, ANCSA corporations

Homework:

AC Chairs- send Sam Rabung any information that you have regarding meetings to post on the mariculture website

Investment & Infrastructure AC Homework: coordinate with DED regarding loan programs, have DED Director Britteny Cioni-Hawwood present to the AC

DCCED CO Homework: edit plan based on discussion and resend to task force

Julie Decker will send out the handout for the Mariculture Task Force- task force members have one week from the date of the email to provide edits

Micaela Fowler Homework- find out what needs to happen to schedule a Mariculture Task Force Legislative Lunch and Learn as well as a potential presentation to the House Fisheries Committee

Next meeting dates:

February 17, 2017 from 8am to noon

March 14, 2017 from 8am to 12pm

April 26, 2017 from 9am to 1pm

12:56pm Meeting adjourned by Vice-Chair Decker