



Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) Meeting Minutes June 27, 2017

Attendees

Mariculture Task Force members attending: Paula Cullenberg, Julie Decker, Jeff Hetrick, Chris Hladick, Sam Rabung, Eric Wyatt

Members of the Public: Tamsen Peeples- Blue Evolution Tomi Marsh- Oceans Alaska, Jim Calvin McDowell Group, Charlotte Regula-Whitefield- Knauss Fellow at Senator Murkowski's office, Joel Cladouhos - Alaska Ocean Cluster, Eva Bornstein - Juneau Economic Development Council, Dave Albert – The Nature Conservancy,

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

Steven Sowell- Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Amanda Compton- Department of Environmental Conservation

Materials distributed to task force members included: Agenda for June 27 meeting, minutes from May 24, 2017 meeting, Outline of Phase 2 by McDowell Group, Phase 2 Chapter 1 by McDowell Group, Phase 2 Chapter 2 by McDowell Group, May 31, 2017 Final Press Release, 2017 Aquatic Farm Application Summary, Alaska Marine Policy Forum May 2017 pages 1-2, DRAFT- AMTF Recommendations for Mariculture Development In Alaska, Guide to Federal Aquaculture Programs and Services (2014), Aquaculture Act of 1980, Research Act of 1977 (excerpt), Draft of Comprehensive Planning Process, NOAA In-Kind Match form

8:30 Chairman Chris Hladick called meeting to order

Agenda was reviewed and adopted

- Sam Rabung motioned to approve the agenda as amended, Julie Decker seconded

May 24 meeting minutes were reviewed

- Sam Rabung motioned to approved the minutes, Julie Decker seconded

Public Introductions & Comment

Public Comments opened at 8:31 am

Public Comment closed at 8:32am

Old Business: McDowell Group Discussion

Jim Calvin from McDowell Group reviewed Chapter 1 and gave an overview on Chapter 2

- He suggested that content from chapter 3 be rolled into chapter 2 since chapter 3 is the chapter focused on investment and that there is already an investment section on chapter 2 that is small. They recommended to tuck the chapter 3 content into the chapter 2 section
- The next part of the scope of work is the economics model. What does this industry look like in the next 5, 10, 20 years and other scenarios
- They are also looking for a return on investment for the mariculture industry and are researching the level of investment to start growth

- Other research includes locating the ways to best utilize resources to get the most growth in both public and private industries
- They should have more deliverables for the task force at the next meeting

Julie Decker asked if they have been looking at other regions with regards to their return on investment as Alaska's industry is so new

Jim answered that they have been looking at other regions and have especially been interested in methods used that have been successful

Paula asked McDowell group for a timeline to submit comments on chapter 2. July 14 was identified by the McDowell Group as the due date to submit comments to them

Chairman Hladick asked if the McDowell Group needs anything from the MTF regarding the economic model

- McDowell Group needs 3 things
- What it's the economic benefit of a better, more developed mariculture industry for Alaska
- How do we get there
- Where can public and private investment best be focused to generate the highest return in the shortest period of time

Chairman Hladick suggested forming a committee of MTF Members to work with McDowell on the economic models. McDowell Group will check with their teammates to see how that might best suit their needs.

McDowell reminded the task force that all of the recommendations from the advisory committees will appear as an appendices to the McDowell Group report

August 1 is the deadline for the next chapter

Old Business: Updates from Advisory Committee Chairs

Research, Development, and Environmental Information- Eric Wyatt reported on behalf of Mike Stekoll

- The McDowell Group has the documents in draft form but the documents are still draft. They will get to the group when they are final
- They are also looking at ongoing research and development issues to bring players together

Sam Rabung: Regulatory Issues- no update

Angel Drobnica & Jeff Hetrick: Investment & Infrastructure AC- no update

Paula Cullenberg: Workforce Development AC- sent final recommendations to the MTF week of June 20

- They have six recommendations that were finalized to be sent forward
- Julie asked if the recommendations included hatcheries
- Paula touched on it but said that there was not a specific reference to training for hatcheries

Heather McCarty: Public Education and Marketing AC- not present no update

- Julie Decker mentioned that Heather is working directly with McDowell Group to craft her recommendations

Updates on Legislation

- No update

Grant Application Updates

- Alaska Sea Grant: Paula will hear about her four proposals in July
- Arctic Founders Collaborative: Julie Decker included it as an FYI for the group as it is a relatively new group and may have relevance to research done by members in the MTF

- ARPA-E: Julie Decker informed the task force that the timeline for comments has been delayed and they are hoping for an update by September 1
- FFAR- Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research: a new group that started in 2016 and were formed as a part of the US Farm bill. They are specifically targeting aquaculture
- NPRB- Request for Research Ideas- Group that funds basic science, they go to stakeholders and ask them for any research topics that they should include in their RFP.
- NOAA SK- RFP Release- RFP will be released around September 1
- Nature Conservancy/ OceansAlaska
- USDA: AFRI, SBIR, Beginning Farmers & Ranchers, RD

Communications

Past and Future Presentations

- AFDF presentation in Craig
- Julie Decker mentioned that since the new farm applications that were submitted are focused in largely Craig, Sitka, and Kodiak they are planning to do a public presentation on mariculture with a target date of August 1
- Sam Rabung mentioned that F&G has started on reviewing the applications in advance but they cannot do anything with them until DNR processes their piece as they control the lands and waters and are required to have public hearings.
- Paula updated the group on the briefing that the SeaGrant Association did on Capitol Hill regarding aquaculture opportunities and challenges that exist across the country and was sponsored by Senators Wicker and Murkowski
- Gary Freitag, the SeaGrant marine advisory agent in Ketchikan made a presentation at the NOAA National Aquaculture Extension Conference in Boise, ID and spoke on their current project regarding seaweed farming in the state

New Business

Discussion: MTF member meetings with Dr. Paul Doremus (NOAA)

Julie Decker and Heather McCarty met with Dr. Doremus to update him on the work of the Mariculture Task Force on June 8, 2017

Dr. Doremus discussed with them NOAA's perspective which is to reduce the seafood trade deficit in the United States and also putting more US people to work. They are looking to aquaculture for increases in jobs and businesses

NOAA would like to support the regions in aquaculture are doing and would also like to put together a panel of national industry representatives to produce a potential draft of what a national aquaculture program would look like

Paula mentioned that it is easy for NOAA federally to pass money to the Alaska SeaGrant program because they have an omnibus grant from NOAA

Discussion: Call with Dr. Gene Kim (USDA Director of Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture)

Julie Decker and Dr. Kim discussed ways to include Alaska in further aquaculture growth as it was a general introductory call, there was no real outcome to report

Jeff Hetrick updated the group as a member of the RAC board regarding research projects and our section goes from New Mexico to Alaska. Alaska has not received a lot of funding because species that are prevalent in Alaska are not common elsewhere. They are still submitting proposals to be funded but with overhead costs going up, there is less money going out to projects.

Discussion: Senator Murkowski's work on aquaculture bill

Charlotte updated the task force on the progress of the bill and will send it to the task force in a few days

They are working with Dr. Kim to focus on regions and are also looking to work the NOAA and the USDA to update their roles in aquaculture

Julie asked Charlotte about marketing so that there is as little disruption to the large producers as possible. Charlotte mentioned that they are focusing on both marketing and education and are also looking for ways to incorporate aquaculture into other bills that are working their way through Congress.

Charlotte mentioned that as these are higher level issues, she would like to work with the task force to identify things within the industry that the MTF would like to see. For example, which credit programs would the regional farmers and industry want participation in? Would they like to stay in the non-insured crop aspects where they can receive different grants or would they like to be lumped into the insured crop market?

Discussion: Draft "AMTF Recommendations for Mariculture Development in Alaska"

Julie Decker went through the sections of the document for the MTF members

Paula questioned the relevance of a certain sentence and suggested that it could be left at the fact that a lot of our development has been in the near shore waters.

Chairman Hladick recommended that suggested edits be sent to Julie Decker instead of editing the document in the meeting. He further recommended that the document begin with a bulleted list to start the letter and then follow with the language as supplemental information.

Paula requested that the letter stress the fact that this is a statewide task force with many different groups being represented and not just the state agencies that are involved

Julie asked if the recommendations from the task force should be included in the document to which Sam Rabung replied that only the recommendations that pertained to the federal level should be included.

Julie will tweak and rework and will continue to coordinate with Charlotte

She will have the letter to the task force in August to review

Chairman Hladick will coordinate with Governor Walker's office for final approval prior to sending

Discuss diagram of comprehensive planning process

August 23- FAQ's completed and the recommendations to the federal delegation

Appoint drafting committee

Julie Decker, Paula Cullenberg, Heather McCarty, and Sam Rabung were volunteered to sit on the drafting committee

Form to document MTF member time for in-kind match to NOAA Grant

- Form was passed around to the task force members to indicate their time worked

Next Steps and Homework

Next meeting dates:

August 23, 2017 from 8:30am to 12:30pm

September 27, 2017

Planning Purposes: October 30 all day

Closing comments

Dave Albert- very interested in the MTF and the work that it is doing

Julie Decker- she is inspired to continue the work of the task force

Eric Wyatt- he is pleased with the work that the McDowell Group is doing with the MTF

10:34am Meeting adjourned by Chairman Hladick