

FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2008

The regular meeting of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) Advisory Council was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 9:00 A.M., at the FGBNMS Headquarters offices in Galveston, Texas. The Council Chair and Vice-Chair were present. The notes of the last meeting were not approved as meeting minutes.

Frank Wasson moved “that meeting minutes be prepared as well as meeting notes and that only meeting minutes appear on the website; however, meeting notes will be publicly available.” Clint Moore moved to amend this motion by adding “that meeting minutes will also be sent to the whole Sanctuary Advisory Council prior to website posting following a 7-day period of review before posting, and that when posted the word ‘draft’ will appear as a watermark on each page; minutes will then be presented for approval at the next Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting.” The motion as amended was adopted after debate.

Joe Hendrix moved “that roll call votes no longer be used.” The motion was adopted.

G.P. Schmahl, Sanctuary Superintendent, reported on the state of the sanctuary in the ‘Sanctuary Update’ report. Topics covered included: International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008, R/V Manta, volunteer recognition, capitol hill visits, TABS buoy recovery, NOAA marine debris grant, Gulf of Mexico initiative, and his presentation to Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) on the Draft Management Plan/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS).

Jennifer Morgan reviewed the outline of the DMP/DEIS and reported on the progress towards completion of the document.

Frank Wasson moved “that the meeting notes from the February 2008 meeting be adopted as meeting minutes.” The motion was lost after debate. Clint Moore moved “that the February 2008 meeting notes be updated to incorporate recently received comments and be distributed to the Council by E-mail and that meeting minutes should be created (in a new format) from the February meeting notes and also distributed by email for Council approval and posted to the website after seven days in accordance with the previous motion.” The motion was adopted after amendment and debate.

Jennifer DeBose reported on the plans for the Research Area Monitoring Workshop scheduled for April 23-24.

Clint Moore, reporting on behalf of the Charter Revision Subcommittee, moved “that a fourth nonvoting member from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) be added to the Council.” The motion was adopted after debate.

Reports were also given by Page Williams, Chairman, on behalf of the Blue Seas/Green Communities Subcommittee and by Shelley DuPuy, on behalf of the FGBNMS staff regarding Ocean Discovery Day.

Frank Wasson was nominated to serve again as the Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair. Joe Hendrix moved “that Frank Wasson remain as Chair by acclamation.” The motion was adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Jennifer Morgan, Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator