

# Shellfish Aquaculture Tiger Team

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## DRAFT Meeting Minutes

DNREC Field Facility  
Lewes, DE

August 8th, 2012

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

E-mail attachment of scanned sign in sheets so the team has everyone's contact information.

### **CALL to ORDER/WELCOME**

Chairman E.J. Chalabala called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Meeting participants were asked to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MINUTES:**

Action items highlighted in Red

#### July Meeting Minutes

- Approved – Chris
- Second – Sally

#### Economic Benefits

- Introduction
  - EJ Chalabala
  - Asked for Comments on economic and environmental benefits two pager
- Rick Cole
  - Concerns
    - Not Complete
      - Does not cover conflicts over lease bottom
      - Make public more aware
    - Stress conflicts are being evaluated with meetings (give the date)
    - Funding
      - Who do we plan to fund the management of aquaculture
  - Document only positive, seems like marketing tool
- Chris Bason
  - Agree
    - Need to show work of team

- Intent of document was outline benefits
  - Make new document on user conflicts and how they are resolved
  - Also outline funding
- Rick Cole
  - Show public that we are going over all data to make best decision
- Josh Thompson
  - Make another document on purpose of group and address issues
  - Keep benefits document as is
- Mike Bott
  - Constraints document is a good idea
    - Show what effects it could have on other commercial and recreational
- Julie Wheatley
  - Cautioned that if you push or outline things that could slow economic development that may hang up progress
  - “caution” signal on outreach could impede progress as it will dominate discussion
- Bob Dorman
  - Aquaculture will take away clam bottom, and reduce his income
    - Clams set differently every year
- Mike Bott
  - Write up half page document on process
- Debbie Rouse
  - What are the problems for project to proceed?
    - What are leasing issues?
    - Funding
  - Do we need to be educated on what problems were encountered from other states before we proceed?
    - Don’t make same mistakes other states did.
- Gary Wolf (FDA)
  - Clam aquaculture (1970’s -) saved industry in south NJ
    - No real productive natural clam bottom left (except sandy hook bay)
    - Learn from neighbors (especially NJ)
- Julie Wheatley
  - Better to learn from and outline neighbor’s success rather than our past failures (30 years ago).
- Mike Bott
  - Need document on process and challenges to show unbiased nature of process
  - Have material for all interest and bias
- GIS Presentation by Bart Wilson

- Outreach Presentation by Sally Boswell
  - Update on progress
  
- Bart Wilson makes motion to have a vote on buffers
  - 50 feet from MLW for shoreline
  - 150 feet from Navigational channels
  - Discussion
    - If you have landowner permission you may get closer than 50 feet
    - State property should have no setbacks, with permission
    - Make sure no deed issues on private landowners
  - Motion Bart Wilson
  - Second Julie Wheatley
  
- Rick Cole
  - Is it just planning or will it be adopted?
    - Concern on how this will be written up in policy
      - Are there going to be legal issues that are unknown
  
- EJ
  - Motion to Adopt buffers
  - All Approve
  
- Motion by Bart Wilson
  - Motion to accept clam density of 2 clams/meter or less as the classification of barren bottom
    - For proposed lease areas in Inland Bays
  - Excludes area of densities of 2 clam/meters or greater
  - All approved
  
- Timeline discussion
  - EJ Chalabala Presentation
    - Asked Rick Cole for a fiscal note follow up
  - Julie Wheatley
    - Include DEDO in timeline discussion
    - Include Sec of Ag and DNREC in discussion'
  
- Clamming Aquaculture
  - Rick Cole
    - Only Support Little Assawoman for clamming aquaculture
    - Concern with wild stock and on bottom issues
    - Reduction of harvest area an issue as well
  - Mike Bott
    - Would be in areas not supporting clams so would enhance natural stock
  - Rick Cole
    - Density of clams is variable and changes over time
  - Steve Friend

- Massey's clam aquaculture operation helped clam population in southern areas of Massey's.
          - Natural sets since then have not been dense like that in those areas
- Bob Dorman
  - Clams are in those areas
    - But variable in distribution
- Steve Friend
  - Discussed with Bob, if he thought densities are what they were in the 70's in the Inland Bays
    - Bob agreed that the densities are lower than they were in the 1970's
- Julie Wheatley
  - Put Timeline on a bar type representation
- Terry
  - Question: Why can clams aquaculture only be in Assawoman but no other bays?
- Rick Cole
  - DNREC supports clams in Assawoman only
  - Support Oysters in all three bays
- Terry
  - Why not let clam aquaculture in all three bays?
    - Clammers only take out clams from Rehoboth and Indian River Bays, and nothing is being put back.
- Steve Friend
  - Clamming aquaculture is a win/win for re-seeding the population of the bays
    - Bays not like they used to be with clam densities
- Gary Wolf
  - NJ has been doing both (natural harvest and aquaculture) for 40 years
  - Bring in industry to discuss the success of aquaculture
- Josh Thompson
  - Support clam and oyster aquaculture in all bays
  - Mitigation
    - Doesn't necessarily support mitigation but could alleviate issues of taking up bottom.
- EJ Chalabala
  - What information does DNREC need to further understand the issue?
- Rick Cole
  - Nothing more is needed
    - All info has been weighted

- Marie
  - DNREC has not been at all meetings
  - What data have the used to make decision?
- Steve Friend
  - Does not see logic of DNRECs decision
- Chris Bason
  - Let's move forward together in process
  - Table the debate for future discussion
- Political
  - Chris Bason
    - Politicians more aware
    - Need to do better to keep them aware of the issues
- Bill Sponsorship
  - Chris Bason
    - What work do we have to do?
    - Need Consensus of Team
  - Julie Wheatley
    - Who do we get to sponsor it in election cycle?
    - They may not be there in January.
- EJ Chalabala
  - Next meeting
    - September 6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) at 1 pm
    - At Department of Agriculture in Camden
- Julie Wheatley
  - Do we want NJ clammers to come and present at our next meeting?
    - Show benefits
  - Chris Bason
    - We will have to see where it fits
- Motion to adjourn
  - EJ motion to Adjourn
  - Julie Wheatley Second
  - Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Bart Wilson, GIS/Spatial planning sub-committee chair