

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

JOINT EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

**Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel
Key West, Florida**

June 12, 2011

SUMMARY MINUTES

Executive Committee

David Cupka, Chair
Robert Boyles
Duane Harris

Dr. Brian Chevront, Vice-Chair
Mac Currin

Finance Committee

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Dr. Brian Chevront
Mac Currin

Mark Robson, Vice-Chair
Duane Harris

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Dr. Roy Crabtree
Ben Hartig
Dr. Wilson Laney
Tom Swatzel

LTJG Matthew Lam
George Geiger
Doug Haymans
Charlie Phillips

Council Staff:

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Mike Collins
Kim Iverson

John Carmichael
Julie O'Dell
Andrea Grabman

Observers/Participants:

Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Otha Easley
Phil Steele

Dr. Jack McGovern
Jessica McCawley
Bob Gill

Other Participants Attached

The Joint Executive/Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Flagler Ballroom of the Key West Beachside Hotel, Key West, Florida, June 12, 2011, and was called to order at 1:30 o'clock p.m. by Chairman David Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: The Executive/Finance Committee first order of business is the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda? Seeing none, then the agenda is approved. The next order of business is approval of the minutes from the March 2011 meeting. Are there any changes to the minutes? Seeing none, then the minutes are approved.

That brings us down to our next agenda item, which is the 2011 budget status. This is behind Attachment 1. I'm going to ask Bob to go over that.

MR. MAHOOD: This is our budget status of a non-budget. We still don't have a budget yet. I was just checking around with other folks in our same situation. Bonnie doesn't have a budget and I don't know if Roy has a budget yet or not, but we are all kind of operating in the dark.

What we have done is if you look down the first column, CY 2011 budget, we have gone with – based on our activity schedule and our known costs, what we need at a minimum for a budget. We have been spending very sparingly accordingly because we don't know if we will get that much. I had hoped we would know by now.

At the CCC meeting, which took place the first part of May, we were told that it was imminent that we would know what our budget was, so I have to go look at the definition of that word again. I thought it meant sooner than a month. Just basically what we have spent so far, you can see the red column is the expended column.

Obligated are our obligated expenses based on the activities schedule and our fixed costs. You see them together and then an assumed balance over at the end. You can see we are holding right now at \$188,000 in the black and so we are okay for right now. The only problem that we have is in our personal services account we are out, really, based on the amount of money we have.

Remember, we only have what we had for carryover and they gave us the first quarter of what they assumed would have been a level funding for 2010, and we've about spent that. So we don't really have \$188,000 hanging out there. Mike told me that our last payroll has pretty much wiped us out. Once we pay for this meeting, it will be down to about the zero level.

I pass that on. I do know that our grants' people have got all the documentation up in Washington and it is ready to go at a moment's notice. All somebody has to do is pull the trigger up there. I don't know if it is Congress, I don't know if it's the Secretary, I don't know if it is the head of NOAA that pulls the trigger, but we won't know until that happens. Mr. Chairman, I'll be glad to answer any questions of where we are so far.

MR. GEIGER: I probably knew this at one time, but I can't remember even what I had for breakfast. What is the difference; why are the state liaison values different, the amount?

MR. MAHOOD: The state liaison is based on a set amount, which is, what, Mike; what is the set amount for each state? \$45,000, I think? Then we add on not daily use but the daily compensation for their member state employees that serve on the SSC, on special panels, that type of thing. Mike does that based on the activities each year. It goes up and down.

One of the things I had hoped to do at this meeting – and I'll do it I guess maybe in August. Hopefully we'll know by August. If we do get level funded from 2010, I think with the carryover we had we might want to look at increasing the states' liaison a little bit. I had hoped to make that recommendation at this meeting, but we don't have the money or we don't have the budget.

MR. BOYLES: Bob, help me understand. I think I should be troubled by the fact that we are about to spend all the money. I mean we can't deficit spend; am I correct in that? I don't see panic in the room, and so is there something I don't know or I don't understand?

MR. GEIGER: What do you mean we can't deficit spend?

MR. MAHOOD: Maybe we are optimistic that NMFS won't just make us send everybody home, I don't know. Last year the same thing occurred and in the final hour money was provided to us. They can provide it in increments. They are hoping to give us the rest of the money for the year, and I think that is what they are trying to do, but I think if push comes to shove we can maybe get another quarter or something like that to operate on.

DR. CRABTREE: I wouldn't worry that you are going to have to close down the offices and go home. It might be like Bob says; kind of last minute, but you'll get the money.

MR. CUPKA: Any other questions for Bob on the current status of our budget? All right, seeing none, then let's move ahead. We are supposed to review and discuss and approve our council activities schedule and budget.

MR. MAHOOD: Right, again we find ourselves in a situation where we can't approve it because we don't really know what the budget is going to be; thus we don't know how we will have to adjust our activities schedule. I'm not going to go over item by item, but if anybody has any questions.

You do see we've got an extra meeting in August at an anticipated cost of about \$21,000. The cost in St. Simons, we were actually under about 20 so there is kind of a nice breakeven there on that one. We should be in pretty good shape, I think, for this number of meetings if we get our funding. The extra meeting is going to be made up with the other meeting in St. Thomas that cost less than what we had anticipated. But if anybody has any specific questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

MR. CUPKA: Any specific questions for Bob on our current year activity schedule? Seeing none, then, are you going to get into the SEDAR activities schedule or just general?

MR. MAHOOD: For the same reason, unless somebody had some specific questions on the SEDAR activities, until we see what the funding is going to be there is no use trying to approve it.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, David, the only question I had was is the August meeting contingent on what we accomplish at this meeting or is it a for-sure deal?

MR. CUPKA: No, it is a for-sure deal.

MR. MAHOOD: Again, the proposed budget is basically the same amount you saw on the first sheet where we are at this point. Again, if anybody has any questions, I'll be glad to answer them. It is only a I guess hoped-for budget at this point in time.

MR. CUPKA: Any questions for Bob? Seeing none, is there any other business to come before the committee? Seeing none, then this committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 o'clock p.m., June 12, 2011.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

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JOINT EXECUTIVE / FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 12, 2011
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