

Maine Seafood Alliance
Directors' Meeting
January 8, 2008 10:00 A.M.
Down East RC&D Office-Cherryfield
Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Markos, Dan Rogde, Randy Ramsdell, Cecil Wood, Albert Carver, Stan Bayley, Steve Beathem, Frank Batson, Brian Beal, Denis Nault, Darcie Couture, Bruce Chamberlain, Gary Edwards (DERC&D), Laurie Schrieber (Bar Harbor Times, Fishermen's Voice)

Item 1 Minutes of December 11 meeting were accepted on a motion by Cecil and second by Dan, all in favor.

Item 2 Treasurer's Report- Balance Forward \$3,849.52

Item 3 Brian Beal DEI/UMM-Brian circulated a letter and information about DEI to the members. He explained that DEI is a research and production facility that is associated with U of M Machias. DEI wants to improve its educational capabilities at the site. They have a vision of providing the shellfish industry an facility and program similar to the blueberry and potato experiment stations. They have a grant in place to work with a consultant on design improvements to the facility.

Jim asked what the relationship would be with MSA. Brian responded that MSA could provide support to DEI by providing a link to industry, and supporting ongoing projects. The Board voted to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with DEI to work cooperatively on Industry issues.

Item 4 DMR Updates

Darcie Couture gave a report on the Red Tide Buoy system that was funded with the Federal Disaster funds. The project has been very successful but the funding will run out in August. The Board agreed to advocate for the continuation of the project.

Bruce Chamberlain reported on the progress of his project to use the Water Quality designated growing areas as the basis to identify Harvest Areas. He showed some draft maps that illustrated the process, indicating that larger areas could be subdivided. Bruce asked the Board for feedback. The Board liked what was presented. Bruce hopes to have the system implemented by June 1.

Item 5 Legislative update Information on several bills coming before the Legislature has been posted on the MSA web site. Three bills were discussed.

LD2006- Would give local shellfish committees control of mussel dragging in the intertidal zone. The Board voted to support this bill

LD2038- Use of private labs in WQ testing- the Board wants to see how discussion and implementation of recommendations from the Water Quality Program Review unfolds.

LD2039- A bill that would allow dealers to buy on the shore- The Board voted not to support this bill.

Item 6 Fishermen's Forum MSA will have a booth at the Forum again this year and will be co-sponsoring a discussion session on Saturday 3/1 to begin a process to encourage more communication within the industry.

Next meeting February 13 10:00 am by conference call Dial in 800-369-2144 then enter pass code #29217