

Maine Seafood Alliance Directors

April 14, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Markos, Steve Beatham, Ginny Olsen, Dan Rogde, Becky Beal, Randy

1. Meeting called to order at 9:35 by Jim Markos

2. Financial update –

Dues paid in 2008 – \$4,250.00

Expenses paid in 2008-09 - \$ 593.00

Balance 4/14/2009 \$9,349.76

No Dues billed in 2009 as of this date

3. Rain Gauge purchase-

MSA has discussed assisting DMR in reading rain fall to help with getting areas open again through the purchase of automatic rain gauges. The board had authorized the purchase of 4 gauges and was waiting word from DMR about the best way to get them in operation. Ginny will be attending a meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Board and will take the opportunity to follow up with DMR staff at that time to move this project along.






4. The future relationship of MSA and the RC&D Council was discussed.

Gary pointed out that as a project of RC&D MSA has progressed to a point where it needs to look at a more independent structure for continued growth and development. In order to maintain a relationship with the Council and be part of the program it is possible for MSA to make a request to become a sponsoring organization of the Council. Then MSA would be a member of the Council with a voting representative and could negotiate services such as fiscal management of Alliance funds and the ability to bring forward projects for Council approval and technical support. The Board directed Jim to work with Gary to develop that request and start the process. With Council approval MSA will be asked to appoint a representative and alternate.

5. Where is MSA going into the future?

Staff – because of the nature and amount of support work needed to keep the organization moving forward the board discussed the possibility of contracting for some part time help. There will be more discussion at the next meeting.

Projects and programs: There was a discussion about the history and accomplishments of MSA to date. Several points were discussed and the following goals established:

-  The organization needs to be more proactive and less reactive.
-  The rain gauge project needs to be completed
-  MSA needs to become integrally involved with DMR, ISSC, FDA, the Legislature, other State and federal and private organizations in helping to solve the water quality crisis that is threatening to seriously harm the ability of the Maine shellfish industry to survive.
-  Needs to develop better systems for working within the State and Federal political systems to better support the shellfish industry.
-  Two support the industry and the growth of the organization by developing programs that encourage the protection/improvement of habitat and shellfish stocks, encourage growth of business, and bring various segments of the industry together.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.