

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.
Eureka, CA 95501

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 19, 2023 (via Zoom)

Board members present: Jake Mitchell, President; RB Pincombe, Vice President; Curtis Wilson, Treasurer; Dick Ogg; Laura Miller; John Barnett. **Absent:** Tony Cania

Contractors: Ken Bates, Linda Hildebrand, Executive Team; Lynette Mullen, Grant Manager

Guests: Steve Sheiblaue, Marine Alliances Consulting; Justine Kimball, Ocean Protection Council

1. Industry updates

- RWE and Vineyard hosted a meeting on August 14, 2023
 - Discussed communication and fishing liaisons
 - Solicited input on how to pick a liaison
- The two companies are in the process of hiring their fisheries liaisons
- RWE and Vineyard have released a draft joint communications plan and are soliciting input

2. CFRA Letter to OPC re: call areas – some highlights

- Between CA and Oregon there are 270 miles of wind power projects
- There are concerns re: changes in upwelling
- Initial docs from BOEM didn't address bird strikes, etc.
- Many fishermen are opposed to projects on fishing grounds
- CFRA believes initial efforts should be treated as pilot projects before full execution of OSW projects

3. Report from Justine Kimball, OPC- General Update

- Pleasure to work w/ CFRA
- The CFRA grant is different in that the CFRA is a new organization & OPC usually works with well-established orgs; meant challenges when starting to help/fund/support
- Appreciates willingness to work w/ OPC; glad to get \$\$ for CFRA
- State agencies like the CCC, CDFW, State Lands appreciate the CFRA and appreciate updates from the OPC at their regular calls

4. Report from Justine Kimball, OPC- 7C Update

- Coastal Commission planned to announce (and did) working group members for 7C
- First meeting will be late Nov, early Dec; 11 people representing fishing interests
 - 8 fisheries representatives & 3 additional from associations/processors...
- Tribal representatives- still being worked out; assessing SB286 requirements; may asked CFRA to help with tribal honoraria; still working out what might look like
- CFRA and OPC need to work together to update the budget; current amounts anticipated 8 working group members but now there are 11 to additional tribal members; hourly rate in SB286- apply to virtual meetings also at \$50/hour. Virtual meetings anticipated to be 4-6 hours and in person meetings likely 1-2 days; the CFRA funding period also needs to be extended into 2025- as the 7C activities will be extended

- Expanding the CFRA's role in the 7C group, the CFRA may be asked to
 - Serve as conduit to larger community- take ideas, etc. back to the 7C group
 - Use CFRA to distribute 7C information to the wider fishing community using direct communication, newsletter, website, etc.

5. Additional Notes re: 7C- Working Group (from Steve S & others)

- Concerns the state process will be onerous, slow and bureaucratic
- Recommends identifying state strategies regarding avoidance, minimizing, and mitigating that includes compensation-; should discuss how the group comes to agreement
- The state will develop a socio-economic impact model, but CFRA needs to know who is doing it; need to use experts in fisheries economics as it is a weighty project in itself for the California Coastal Commission, but can't be 50 pages—needs to be 2-3; need to discuss how impacts are economically assessed
- Should anticipate a fight over compensation mitigation. Issues include
 - Gear loss and vessel damage (many models – not too complicated)
 - A resiliency fund w/ annual allocations (should be robust/multiple hundreds of thousands per year) which is consistent w/ coastal act but companies may be resistant and challenge impacts, esp. from site assessment and survey; may have help from CCC staff
 - Site assessment and construction phase- need to decide how to assess damages and compensate (more subtle). Resiliency fund to reduce fuel costs, etc. may not apply much to site assess and survey
- There is an absolute need for fishermen come together in advance of meetings to agree on strategies first so goals are already clear when come to the 7C meetings
- Ken suggested calling a meeting of the 7C group as soon as names are released – should include members and others with history to advise working group-
- Other issues/challenges anticipated include
 - Individual payments to fishermen - Kate Hucklebridge didn't seem to like the idea and direct payments may be unpopular w/ state
 - Noted that wind companies are not sending top executives to meet w/ fishermen, leaving them insulated/uninformed regarding concerns; 7C industry reps should be able to make decisions during meetings process
 - Wind companies are only allocating funds for mitigation for when power is being produced; no money is being allocated to address impacts from site assessment, survey, and construction impacts
- Process for choosing alternates was unknown (it has since been learned that representatives will chose their own alternates)
 - Holly contacted Ken and Linda hoping to get suggestions for women to serve –they recommended 3 women familiar w/ San Francisco area north.
- OPC will be represented on 7C-
 - Permanent representative has not been chosen yet- likely Justine temporarily
 - New Fisheries Program Manager (currently being hired) will likely fill role; CFRA agreement that expertise in fisheries will be more important than offshore wind knowledge

6. Update OPC Grant

- CFRA hasn't spent funds at levels anticipated
- CFRA still had deliverables pending including 2nd agreement considering fiberoptic, etc.; draft will be reviewed by attorney, Central California Cable Committee members and then presented to CFRA board
- Givin changes to 7C group honoraria, etc. CFRA/OPC budget will be updated
- Grant and funding extension into 2025 will just require an amendment that extends timeline and scope of work.

7. Industry meeting at Morro Bay w/ developers

- Industry reps in Morro Bay area plus 5-6 fishermen representatives attended
- Fishermen wanted to talk about communication plan and expressed anxiety regarding impacts of site assessments and surveys; Fishermen brought up concerns and wind company seemed to push them aside.
- Ask Ken and Linda for a meeting transcript if interested in more details

8. Budget

- It was explained that the OPC provides 15% for overhead costs instead of reimbursing directly – and then deducts 10% as a hold until the end of the grant period
- The board agreed to schedule an annual audit
- The board thankfully accepted a donation from John O’Sullivan

9. Hiring of Grant Manager Position

- Lynette will be leaving the CFRA as grant manager; she has prepared a description of roles and responsibilities; To replace her the board should consider the following
 - The CFRA should NOT have Ken and Linda take on her job/role
 - The board can advertise for the position
 - The board can consider Lynette’s referral of Michael Kraft
 - The board moved to receive Michael’s resume and schedule an interview (RB moved, Jake 2nd; passed unanimously)

10. Webmaster position (technical subcontractor)

- The board may be asked to hire a technical subcontractor to help build out the website- pending new contractor onboarding and skill set

11. Recruitment of New Association Members

- Golden Gate Sportfishing Association-- Still working to connect w/ them – no response to emails (maybe Dick or John can connect with them)
- Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers- 3 attempts and so far unsuccessful but still working on it
- The CFRA may want to consideration individual members (possible with bylaw change)

12. New Business and Board Comments

- Ken and Linda are drafting a fishing community impact agreement template for fiber optic and electric transmission cables- to cover east west, north/south.
 - Morro Bay cable agreement is providing a baseline -- 16 associations signed it 3 years ago
 - Morro Bay agreement does not address cost of living raises or increased value fishing grounds
 - Any agreement the CFRA drafts should be reviewed by Morro Bay Cable Committee—and should improve upon their agreement (not lower the bar)
 - The board agreed to have the Morro Bay folks (and attorney) review any draft