

CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.
Eureka, CA 95501

CFRA Report #4

CFRA Board Meeting - Minutes
Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 4:00pm via Zoom

This meeting was attended by:

CFRA Boardmembers - RB Pincombe, Ken Bates, Linda Hildebrand, Jake Mitchell, Tony Cannia, Dick Ogg, Sean Hodges, John Barnett

Guests: Steve Scheiblaue

Meeting Zoom Host: Lynette Mullens

Reports

1. **OPC Grant Fund application** — CFRA is applying for State “bridge” funding for five years. The process is:
 - a. to submit application and budget to OPC for edits,
 - b. return edited application for CFRA Board approval (motion required)
 - c. submit completed application to OPC for funding
2. CFRA public comment letters concerning BOEM draft Lease Sale Document for Humboldt and Morro Bay WEA's and BOEM draft fisheries mitigation strategy. Steve Scheiblaue discussed the following points:
 - a. BOEM proposed only 2.5% bid credits for developers if they execute a Fishing Community Benefit Agreement with port fishermen's associations. The amount of 2.5% is far too low to motivate developers. Fishermen should request 15 - 20% bid credit for FCBA's.
 - b. Many non-fishing groups now have their hand out for “wind power” mitigation funds. The fishing industry, expected to experience heavy negative impacts, should have its own dedicated impact fee fund.

Board Actions

1. Tony Cannia (STMA-Noyo) nominated Laura Miller (STMA Treasurer and longtime commercial fisherman) as the CFRA alternate for Noyo. Motion was seconded by Ken Bates. Laura was elected by unanimous vote. Thank you, Laura.
2. The CFRA Board determined that it is now appropriate to send “invitations to participate as consulting members” to other fishing related associations and organizations to join the CFRA. These potential new members would receive CFRA reports, attend meetings and have access to CFRA policy documents and public comment letters.
3. Discussion and action concerning Fishing Community Benefit Agreements (FCBA's). How do we promote long term resiliency in fishing communities and the fishing industry? What will help all existing and new entrants to remain in fishing over the long haul? Should an “individual” payment provision be part of FCBA's?

The discussion began with a description of subsea telecommunication cable mitigation funds in California, and of the four funds, there are two which have a history of inclusiveness and a long term vision for fishing. Steve Scheiblauber presented a review of the fishing industry wind power letter and the policy document for the Fishing Community Benefit Agreement. Steve also expressed the need for fishermen to establish “one voice” to address BOEM, developers and State agencies with the same messages in regards to policy. In the discussion that followed, Board members all expressed the need to address infrastructure loss and replacement in California ports to provide for present and future fishing activities.

Other comments included:

RB - “We need to find something that is essential and could be subsidized. Money is only short term.”

TC - Money should go to infrastructure that fishermen need. Money should not go to individual fishermen as it does not help other fishermen.

DO - “ I have been working with the county. The money could be used to help with the marina, an ice facility, and dredging. Individual payments make it difficult to support fisheries.

SH - “Money should be put back into infrastructure such as an ice facility. Fishermen should be paid and not left out”.

JM- “Individual payments are short term and wouldn't do much good. The money should be disbursed by a group of fishermen that is watching out for the interests of the entire fishing fleet.

On the subject of individual payments to qualifying fishermen, the following questions came up:

1. Who qualifies? All fishermen by geographic location? Fishermen in port fishing associations? Crew members? Vessel operators or vessel owners? Individual vessel owners? Fish company vessel owners? Landing and fishing history?
2. What about non-resident fishermen that work in or adjacent to the proposed project site?
3. If folks are left out, how do they appeal? Who do they appeal to? Who wants to be on a review board for those appeals?
4. How do individual payments to existing fishermen help new and future entrants into the fishing business?

The Board discussed comments by non-fishing academics and nonprofit and community activists that when individually polled, universally expressed the effectiveness of long term

programs over individual compensation. It was noted that West coast trawl representatives expressed their view that a one time payment would do little or nothing to mitigate for fishing ground loss and disruption of ground fisheries. RB Pincombe's comment " to find long term essential services that could be subsidized to support fishermen ", led to a comment from Steve Scheiblauser explaining the possibilities of long term fuel, ice and crew insurance subsidies in the impacted areas. While the prospect of individual compensation would only be available to members of the "negotiating" fishermen's association, long term subsidies could be structured to encompass a greater group of fishermen in areas directly impacted by developments.

At the end of this discussion, the CFRA Board made a motion and by a unanimous vote approved the editing of the CFRA Draft Fishing Community Benefit Agreement template to remove the nearly two page section of individual payment protocols and instead state that the "FCBA may provide for the provision for individual payment to a subset of need based fishermen impacted by development. This provision is available as an addendum to the FCBA Agreement". The payment language can be accessed as required by CFRA Board member request and allow member associations to address some of the above questions concerning individual payments and contract wording if individual payments to qualifying fishermen turn out to be the only way to mitigate the impacts of offshore development. The CFRA Board expressed its desire to leave all options open, but to focus its efforts on broad based inclusive projects and policies to promote fishing in the long term.

RB Pincombe, Secretary.
California Fishermen's Resiliency Association

7/7/2020

Date