

MINUTES

RFAB Meeting for Final Recommendations to the VMRC. May 10, 2004

Members Present

George Hudgins
Jesse Duell
Edward Rhodes
Carolyn Brown
Jim Deibler
John Barr
Carlisle Bannister

Members Absent

Charles Randolph
Andy Ligon

At 7:05 Chairman George Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Mr. Hudgins started by asking Jane McCroskey to review the status of the license fund. Mrs. McCroskey stated that there would be approximately \$1,289,000 available for allocation. Mrs. McCroskey also briefed the board on the status of legislation that involved the Saltwater Development Fund.

Mr. John Gill, of the City of Poquoson, addressed the board. He briefed the RFAB on the status of the Messick Point Boat Ramp project. He stated the city was seeking more funding from the RFAB for the overflow parking lot, since the initial bids came back very high. He informed the RFAB that the city would be applying for more funding in the second funding cycle of 2004.

The draft minutes from the March 8, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. 2004 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown. **\$5,270.**
Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Mr. Barr and was approved unanimously.
- B. Federal Assistance Match (formerly Wallop-Breaux). Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$154,662.**
Mr. Diebler made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Mr. Duell, and was approved unanimously.
- C. 2004 Funding Support for Virginia's Artificial Reef Program. Mike Meier, VMRC. **\$200,000.**
Mr. Barr made a motion to approve this project, seconded by Mr. Duell. Discussion followed on the motion. The motion was amended to reflect the

reallocation of the \$30,000 that was previously approved by the RFAB to be shifted and used in reef fabrication and construction. The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. Monitoring Relative Abundance of Young-of-year American eel in the Virginia Tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Marcel Montane, VIMS. **\$24,254.**

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve this project for \$12,127.00, with the other half of the funding to come from the Marine Improvement Fund (Commercial). Mr. Duell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- E. Establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Trophic Interaction Laboratory. Chris Bonzek, VIMS. \$95,000.

Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the project for full funding. Mr. Diebler seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

~~F.~~ **WITHDRAWN**

- G. Boat Scarring Effects on SAV (year 5). Dr. Bob Orth, VIMS. **Previously approved by the VMRC on 3/23/04 for \$10,277.**

Mr. Rhodes asked Dr. Orth about the status of this project and if this would be an ongoing project for VIMS. Dr. Orth responded that the VMRC had requested the project continue for at least three more years.

- H. Enhancing SAV Habitat: Research and Education for Restoration. Dr. Bob Orth, VIMS. **\$97,080.**

Dr. Orth informed the RFAB that he was very confident that he would receive federal funding from NOAA for this year. As a result of this funding, he would be willing to reduce his funding request from \$97,080. to \$25,000. A motion was made to approve funding for \$25,000. by Mr. Diebler and was seconded by Mr. Bannister. The motion was approved unanimously.

I. New Projects

- I. Smith Landing Waterfront Improvements Project. Cheryl Sonderman, York County. **\$525,750.**

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve \$309,985. for the demolition and construction of the boat ramps and docks. He stated that York County's 25% matching amount in addition to the 10% contingency amount would be sufficient to fund the ramps and piers. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and was approved unanimously.

- J. Cultured Cobia as a Tool for Life History Studies and Potential Stock Enhancement Projects. Michael Oesterling, VIMS. **\$90,139.**

The RFAB discussed the project with Mr. Oesterling. Mr. Barr asked about the intent of the study, and also if other funding sources were sought. Mr.

Oesterling responded that other funding sources did not come through. A motion was not offered.

~~K.~~ **WITHDRAWN**

- L. Effects of Longnose Gar on Local Juvenile Gamefish Populations. Patrick McGrath, VIMS. **\$9,724**. A motion was not offered.

~~M.~~ **WITHDRAWN**

- N. Buckroe Park Fishing Pier. Cindy Martel, City of Hampton. **\$182,626**. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to table this project for another funding cycle. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown, and was approved unanimously.

- O. Mill Creek Boat Landing. Phil Lownes, VDGIF. **\$94,500**. A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve this project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duell, and was approved unanimously.

- P. VDGIF Saltwater Fishing Access Improvements. Phil Lownes, VDGIF. **\$67,000**. There was some discussion about the project needing a budget that shows a detailed cost breakdown. A request was made for the DGIF to issue a quarterly report to the RFAB on the expenditures of these monies. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve this project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Diebler, and passed unanimously.

~~Q.~~ **WITHDRAWN**

- R. Morley's Wharf Fishing Pier, Youth Fishing Tournament, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$1,000**.

Mr. Bannister emphasized the importance of youth fishing, but stated that Projects "R" and "S" were not received until after the deadline for applications. He also stated the projects were not new and the fishing clubs know the deadlines. He offered a motion to deny the projects. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. Ms. Brown stated the kids were the only ones who would be penalized. Discussion followed. Mr. Barr then stated the clubs could still come back at a later date and request a reimbursement of funds. The motion passed, 6 in favor, 1 opposed.

- S. Saxis Fishing Pier, Youth Fishing Tournament, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club, **\$1,000**. Mr. Bannister made a motion to deny the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barr, and passed 6 in favor, 1 opposed.

T. Sunshine Program Fishing Challenge Children's Day, Portsmouth Anglers Club, **\$3,954**.

Mr. Dobbins, of the Portsmouth Anglers Club, addressed the RFAB to respond to statements about the project application coming in late. He stated that he had used the old VMRC post office box number and mail was no longer being forwarded to the VMRC new address. Mr. Bannister stated the project could come back to the RFAB and request a reimbursement of funds. A motion was made by Mr. Bannister to deny the project, and was seconded. The motion to deny the project failed, 3 in favor and 4 opposed. Mr. Barr stated that he was uncomfortable with approving this project and felt all the late submissions should be treated the same. Another motion was made to approve the project. The motion was seconded and failed, 2 in favor, 5 opposed.

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 9:35pm.