

OFFICIAL MINUTES
RECREATIONAL FISHING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JULY 8, 2002

Members Present

George Hudgins
Bob Bois Charles
Jesse Duell
Parks Rountrey
Jim Deibler
Edward Rhodes
Carolyn Brown

Member Absent

Andy Ligon

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hudgins at 7:00pm.

Mr. Travelstead said that the funds that are currently available for current proposals in September would be approximately \$ 462,000. There is currently over \$900,000 in project proposals.

Mr. Hudgins asked for corrections and additions to the May 13, 2002 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Bois and Mr. Rhodes made corrections and additions to the minutes. Mr. Parks Rountrey made the motion to accept the minutes as amended and Mr. Jesse Duell seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as amended was approved unanimously by the board.

Mr. Travelstead then made a request to use saltwater license funds to match federal Wallop-Breaux funds. Staff is requesting the use of \$60,000 from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund. Staff is also requesting to use approximately \$40,000 of the commercial license funds (Marine Improvement Fund) to add to this match. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to fund the \$60,000 requested by VMRC staff for Wallop-Breaux match. Mr. Rountrey seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote from the board.

Mr. Travelstead made a request to modify the due dates for proposals from January 1 and July 1 to December 15th and June 15th. Mr. Bois made a motion to accept the recommendations, Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion to change the Proposal due dates to December 15 and June 15 was carried by a unanimous vote.

Multi-year Projects

A. 2003 Children's Fishing Clinic:

Mr. Rob Cowling made a presentation on behalf of the CCA of Virginia and the Denby/Newport News Rotary Chapter. He stated that all the supporters would like to see continued support of the project. Mr. Deibler asked why there were 300 rods and only 250 kids? Mr. Cowling said that the extra rods are used replace broken and lost outfits.

B. 2003 Hampton Roads Kids Fishing Day:

Mr. Jim Hayden made a presentation on behalf of the CCA of Virginia and other sponsors. Mr. Dieffenbach stated that the kids would be selected with the help of the city's bureau. He also stated that there is an abundance of volunteers for this activity.

C. 2003 Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program:

Mr. John Lucy of VIMS made a presentation on behalf of the VMRC and VIMS. Mr. Lucy stated that in 2001, the program participants tagged about 11,450 fish. He also stated that participation in the program is also at an all time high. He stated that there are about 140 participants, all of which receive a copy of the final report.

New Projects

D. Breast Cancer Recovery through Saltwater Flyfishing:

Ms. Carol Stevenson made a presentation on behalf of the Casting for Recovery Program. Ms. Stevenson stated that the past two projects held in freshwater areas were very successful. She also made a reference to the Chesapeake Womens' Anglers Club and the support that they will be providing for this program. Fly fishing has been proven to be both a mentally and physically therapeutic activity. Ms. Stevenson stated that the majority of the help would be volunteers. The women for the program will be selected by lottery. Mr. Rhodes asked where the program received its funding for its freshwater programs in the past. Ms. Stevenson said that the Womens' Chesapeake Anglers conducts fundraisers as well as solicits major corporations for donations.

E. Expansion and Rehabilitation of the Oyster Boat Ramp:

Mr. Mark Cline made a presentation on behalf of Northampton County. Mr. Cline stated that the Oyster ramp is the only seaside access in lower Northampton County. He stated that in the last couple of years there has not been enough parking to handle the volume of users. The Nature Conservancy has agreed to sell to the city a 3-acre lot to add approximately 80 vehicle parking spaces in addition to the 57 current spots. Mr. Deibler asked if the grant money would be used purchase the land. Mr. Cline said that the money was going to be used to help purchase the land. Mr. Deibler then asked about how much of the traffic is recreational and how much is commercial. Mr. Cline said that the majority of the traffic is recreational and the majority of the anglers are from North Carolina. Mr. Hudgins asked what shape is the ramp currently in? Mr. Cline stated that the ramp is in moderate shape.

F. Wisharts Point Landing:

Mr. Keith Bull made a presentation on behalf of the County of Accomack Mr. Bull said that Accomack County was a driving force in getting the seaside license enacted. Mr. Bull stated that he is aware of the amount available and would be willing to accept partial funding to develop the designs for the site. He stated that the usage would be 90% recreational.

G. 2002-2003 vessel services for the VMRC Artificial Reef Program:

Mr. Mike Meier expressed gratitude for the past contributions made to the reef program by license funds. Mr. Meier stated that the 2002-2003 programs will be the most ambitious since the inception of the program. He stated that currently the Navy is

demolishing a pier at its facility in Norfolk; this project will provide approximately 80,000 tons of demolition concrete. This material is being deployed at the Middle Ground Light on the James River. This deployment will tie up the reef program boat until the winter. Mr. Meier also stated that Virginia would be receiving about 200 subway cars from the City of New York Transit Authority. These will be deployed offshore at the reef sites at Blackfish Banks and Paramore. Mr. Meier said that he is asking for \$30,000 to support future deployments.

H. Little Island Fishing Pier:

Brian Solace of the City of Virginia Beach made a presentation on behalf of the city. Mr. Solace said that there are currently three fishing piers in Virginia Beach, two are privately owned and one that is publicly owned. He stated that the Little Island pier gets about 11,000 visitors per year. Mr. Solace stated that the current pier does not meet ADA standards. Phase 1 of this proposal will solve these problems. Phase 2 will include the extension and the t-heads. Mr. Solace stated that this proposal is for the first phase of the project. Mr. Hudgins asked what is the schedule at the two private piers? Mr. Solace said that the other piers charged \$5.50 daily to fish. Mr. Rountrey asked if that the private piers are opposed to this proposal. Mr. Solace said that they were no complaints about the new proposal. Mr. Hudgins asked what the main complaint is about the current pier? Mr. Solace said that the length of the pier is the main complaint of anglers.

I. Undercover Vehicles for Virginia Marine Police:

Col. Steve Bowman stated that in the past undercover vehicles were borrowed from other state agencies. Col. Bowman is seeking older vehicles that are dependable and can be fitted with surveillance equipment.

J. Challenger Youth Little League- Fishing and marine Biology Education:

Mr. Hayden said that this program was developed to give handicapped little league baseball players to get an opportunity to get some fishing and marine education experience.

K. Virginia Beach Oyster Project:

Mr. Hayden said that this program will develop oyster float program for waterfront landowners to participate in. Mr. Bois asked if this program will be conducted in condemned shellfish areas. Col. Bowman stated that the Virginia Dept. of Health will have to be involved to delineate those areas. Mr. Hayden said that the oysters will be placed at the localities for growing and then returned to VIMS for research purposes.

L. Tale of the Striped Bass:

No one showed up to present this project.

Other Business:

Mr. Hudgins then asked Bob Bois to go over the Coastal Watch Program. Mr. Bois stated that MPO Jeff Copperthite will be assisting with the program. The program should be ready to start very soon. Participants will be given ID cards when they complete the program. Mr. Bois will contact anglers clubs when the program is ready.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.