

MINUTES

Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting

November 8, 2004

Members Present

Edward Rhodes
Charles Southall
Carolyn Brown
Jim Deibler
John Barr
Carlisle Bannister
Jesse Duell

Members Absent

George Hudgins
Charles Randolph

At 7:05 pm, Vice-Chairman Mr. Ed Rhodes called the meeting to order.

The RFAB was informed of the passing of Associate Commissioner Chad Ballard, and they sent their condolences to his family.

Mr. Chad Boyce gave the status of the fund. He said there was approximately \$478,000 dollars available for allocation for this cycle.

Mr. Rhodes then asked for a review of the September 13, 2004 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Barr made a correction to the minutes on item E. He said that his comment was not about the “indirect costs” for ODU. He said his question was for a clarification of the “contributions” from ODU. A motion was made to approve the corrected minutes and the motion was seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal

- A. 2004 Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (Year 11), \$57,408.** A motion was made to recommend approval for this project. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- B. CCA Tidewater Youth Fishing Day 2005, \$6,000.** Mr. Bannister noted that this project application was received late. Ms. Brown made a motion to recommend approval for the project and was seconded by Mr. Diebler. The motion to approve passed, 5 to 2.
- C. 2005 Challenger Little League Tournament Marine Science Educational Booths, \$800.** Mr. Bannister noted the project application was received late. Mr. Rhodes commented that his concern was the volunteers’ hours were counted as an “in-kind” match for the project, instead of a hard dollar match. Mr. Diebler made a motion to recommend denying funding the project and was seconded by Mr. Bannister. The motion to deny the project passed, 4 to 3.

- D. 2005 Children’s Fishing Clinic (Year 8), \$6,000.** Mr. Bannister noted this project application was received late and he made a motion to recommend denying funding for the project. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. Ms. Brown stated that the children would be the ones who were punished for the volunteers not getting the application in on time. Mr. Southall agreed. Mr. Barr stated the project was still late, and the deadline should apply to all projects. The motion to deny funding failed, 2 to 5. A motion was then offered to recommend approval for the project and was seconded and passed 5 to 2.
- E. How Seagrass Beds support Healthy Fish Growth: a study of trophic structure in Chesapeake Bay using stable isotopes (Final year), \$70,169.** Mr. Barr stated that he had made a request for Dr. Jones to look into the \$9,543 that was in the budget as the “recipient’s funding”. He noted a document that Dr. Jones had supplied information that showed how discretionary monies had been used and actually had allowed ODU to exceed their in-kind match. Dr. Jones addressed the RFAB and stated that she had asked for clarification from the finance office at ODU, but had not heard anything from them. The project was tabled until later in the meeting. When the project was addressed again, Mr. Bannister stated that staff had reviewed the VSRFDF website and the correct dates were there. He made a motion to recommend denying funding for the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barr and the motion to deny passed 6 to 1.

After the meeting, Dr. Jones contacted staff and referenced the document that contained the misinformation. The document was on the VMRC homepage, not the VSRFDF website. The document was checked by staff and it clearly showed the incorrect deadline dates. Staff sent a memo to the RFAB members that described the outdated document used by Dr. Jones.

- F. CCA VA Grayson Rodgers Memorial Youth Fishing Day 2005, \$595.** Mr. Bannister noted the project application was received late. He made a motion to recommend denying funding for the project. Mr. Barr seconded the motion and the motion to deny failed, 2 to 5. Ms Brown then made a motion to approve the project for funding. The motion to recommend approval passed 5 to 2.
- G. St. Jude “Fishing for a Cure” Portion of the Little Creek Regatta, \$600.** Mr. Deibler made a motion to recommend denying funding. Mr. Duell seconded the motion. Mr. Barr added the project was not an educational project, it was just a contribution to St. Jude. The motion to deny the project passed 7 to 0.
- H. Smith Landing Waterfront Improvements, \$215,767.** Mr. Bannister made a motion to partially fund the project for the amount of \$164,308, which just covered the costs of the fishing pier. The motion failed for lack of a second. Mr. Barr then responded that York County had done everything correctly, as far as the process is concerned, and they had come back in this cycle as a request by the RFAB to help reduce mobilization costs. He then made a motion to recommend approval for \$215,767 for the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Southall.

Mr. Diebler asked if this money would complete the project. Ms. Sonderman, of York County, responded “yes”. The motion to approve passed 7 to 0.

- I. Impact of Mycobacteriosis on the Striped Bass Recreational Fishery in Chesapeake Bay, \$98,300.** Mr. Diebler made a motion to recommend approval for this project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bannister. Mr. Diebler stated there was a real need to see what is occurring with striped bass regarding mycobacteriosis. Mr. Southall asked if there was a possibility of the commercial fund assisting in funding this project. Mr. Boyce responded that he did not have the exact numbers with him, but the commercial fund did not have a lot of money available. The motion to approve funding passed, 7 to 0.

- J. The value of seagrass habitats to the ecosystem in Chesapeake Bay, \$58,221.** Mr. Bannister made a motion to recommend approval for this project. Mr. Duell seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed 4 to 3.

- K. Additional Funding Support for Messick Point Boat Ramps and Parking, \$200,310.58.** Mr. Diebler made a motion to recommend denying the project for funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barr. It was noted that the City of Poquoson had stated to the RFAB that this project would proceed with or without the funds from the RFAB. This comment referred to the current project. Mr. Barr added that the City had not been policing the facility, and the appropriate signage had not been displayed. He added that there had been numerous changes to the project, even after it had been approved by the RFAB. He stated that most of the cost overruns for the project were a result of the City making changes to the design. Mr. Rhodes stated that he asked Mr. Gill at the last meeting about the design and future plans for the project. The plans possibly included a convenience store, car rentals, and a marine supply store. He added that the City had applied for numerous other grants from the Virginia Port Authority, and the Dept. of Health. The motion to deny the project passed unanimously, 7 to 0.

Mr. Rhodes then addressed the board with other issues pertaining to the Messick Point boat ramp. He stated that the City of Poquoson had changed their plans numerous times. He also referenced letters that indicated the City of Poquoson had applied for monies from the Virginia Port Authority, and these monies were to be used for the “revitalization of commercial ports.” He also stated that the appropriate signage had not been displayed, policing of the project was not being done, and the commercial usage would continue to be a problem since Mr. Gill told the RFAB that the City could not displace the commercial interests from the area. Finally, he noted the City had not requested any reimbursement of funds from the VSRFDF, even though the ramps and finger piers were complete. He then asked to for staff to look into a possible breach of contract. Mr. Barr put the above statements in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Diebler and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.