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Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Minutes
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Monday, September 10, 2012
5:30 p.m. (Work Session) and 7:00 p.m. (RFAB recommendations)

Members Present

George Hudgins- Chairman
Edward Rhodes- Vice Chairman
Carolyn Brown
Jim Deibler
Jimmie Duell
Charles Randolph
Ken Schultz
Charles Southall

Staff Present

Adam Kenyon
Joe Cimino
Renee Hoover
Mike Meier
Terri Short
Jane McCroskey
Robert O'Reilly
Lewis Gillingham
Allison Watts

Members Not Present

Carlisle Bannister

Public

Stewart Hall
Bob Wright
Sonya Davis
Dr. Mary Fabrizio
Jacqueline Bort
Lauren Nys
Ned Smith
Rob Cowling
Cody M. Henry

The RFAB Work Session was held from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. These minutes are from the Final Recommendations Meeting of this project cycle. The minutes were recorded by Alicia Nelson.

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

Mr. Hudgins called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and asked for announcements from staff. Mr. O'Reilly said that projects Q and R were uncertain on their habitat permits, and suggested that any approval be conditional pending habitat permits being finalized. He also said that the Commercial Fishing Advisory Board had approved partial funding of three projects from the Marine Fishing Improvement Fund: Project I with \$32,095, Project N (2013 Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay) with \$25,985.50, and Project U (Cooperative (VMRC, Va Tech, ASMFC) Efforts to Utilize Alternative Methods for the Upcoming Stock Assessment of Weakfish) with \$5,000.

Mr. O'Reilly also reminded everyone that the board would be returning to a two-cycle system (with the first cycle applications due December 15, 2012). He said that the first cycle would accommodate those projects that needed funding earlier in the year (those that had to be expedited in the 2013

II. Status of the fund.

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Ms. McCroskey gave an update on the status of the fund. She said that roughly 1.44 million dollars were available to obligate for projects and reminded board that the next estimate, which will be given in January, will include a huge obligation from projects funded internally at VMRC that will be removed at that time (around 1.5 million dollars). Mr. Rhodes asked if the DGIF funding information was current, and Ms. McCroskey said that it was current from July 31.

Ms. McCroskey also mentioned that we are also still waiting on money from VDGIF for the current fiscal year because they are doing an audit on their license system. In January, there should be more revenue as a result of this audit. She and board members discussed the transfer of funds from the VDGIF.

Mr. Shultz asked how much of the 1.4 million dollars was rollover from unspent funds from the previous year, and Mr. McCroskey said that particular amount wasn't available but at the end of June, we had 2.865 million dollars worth of projects that had been awarded but not spent. She mentioned that any money not spent is returned.

There was discussion about when reports were required and when they were available. All reports are posted on the agency website and all contracts include strict rules for reporting (money is not distributed if progress reports are not turned in).

III. Review of Minutes from the July 2012 RFAB Meeting.

Mr. Rhodes moved to accept the minutes from the July 2012 RFAB meeting, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Duell. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Multi-Year Projects for 2012 Renewal.

H) 2012 Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection (Year 6). J. Grist, J. Cimino, VMRC. **\$10,000.**

Mr. Duell motioned to approve the project, and Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I) *Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds, Federal FY 2013. Rob O'Reilly, VMRC. **\$256,156 (VSRFDF to provide \$224,061; MFIF to provide \$32,095).**

Mr. Duell motioned to approve \$256,156 in federal assistance matching funds, and Mr. Rhodes made a substitute motion to approve \$224,061 (the VSRFDF portion). The motion was seconded by Mr. Randolph, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Multi-Year Projects for 2013 Renewal.

J) 2013 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 16). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$6,500.**

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Mr. Rhodes motioned to increase items J and K to \$7,500 based on a request by Mr. Cowling and to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The motion passed unanimously.

- K) 2013 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 12). Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,500.**

This project was approved in the motion for the previous project.

- L) 2013 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip (Year 2). Ned Smith, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,115.**

Mr. Randolph moved to approve the project, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

- M) 2013 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 19). S. Musick, VIMS and L. Gillingham, VMRC. **\$72,392.**

Mr. Schultz moved to approve the project, and Mr. Randolph seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- N) *2013 Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay (Yr 12). M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. **\$51,971 (VSRFDF to provide \$25,985.50; MFIF to provide \$25,985.50).**

Mr. Rhodes moved to approve the project, and Mr. Randolph seconded. The motion passed with eight in favor and one opposed.

VI. New Projects for 2012

- Q) Greenbackville Harbor Enhancements. S. Hall, Accomack County, R. Mariner, GMB. **\$225,000.**

Mr. Hudgins noted that both access projects needed environmental permits from the Habitat Management department. Mr. Randolph motioned to approve the project with the habitat permit stipulation, and Mr. Shultz seconded the motion. The access project checklist was handed out and reviewed. All items were reviewed. It was agreed that only slip rentals would require fees and that any changes would require approval by RFAB. Reports concerning fees collected were deemed not applicable. For the parking requirements described in the checklist, Mr. Rhodes clarified where the VDGIF and ADA requirements could be found, and gave contact information to the applicant.

The other checklist items were approved, and a copy was given to the applicant present. The motion to approve the project with the habitat permit stipulation passed unanimously.

- R) Chincoteague Historic Bridge Fishing Pier. K. Edwards, R. Ritter, Town of Chincoteague. **\$129,083.**

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Mr. Schultz moved to approve the application and presented, and Mr. Randolph seconded the motion. Mr. Schultz amended the motion to make approval subject to permitting by the Habitat Management department. The access project checklist was reviewed, and all items were accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

- S) Genetic-based Investigation of Blueline Tilefish and Snowy Grouper Stock Structure (Year 1 of 2). J. McDowell, J. Graves, VIMS. **\$74,155.**

Mr. Deibler motioned to deny funding for the project, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The motion passed unanimously.

- T) Fish Away from Whales Angler Outreach Project (Year 1 of 2). Mark Swingle, Virginia Aquarium Foundation. **\$76,151.**

Mr. Deibler motioned to deny funding for the project, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Project for 2013

- U) *Cooperative (VMRC, Va Tech, ASMFC) Efforts to Utilize Alternative Methods for the Upcoming Stock Assessment of Weakfish. R. O'Reilly, VMRC, Y. Jiao, VPI, P. Campfield, ASMFC. **\$20,000 (VSRFDF to provide \$15,000; MFIF to provide \$5,000).**

Mr. Shultz moved to approve the project, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Tentative Dates for Future First Cycle 2013 RFAB Meetings.

(Proposal Applications due Monday, December 14, 2012 by 5:00 p.m.)

Project Presentations by Applicants (7 p.m.) January 14

Public Hearing (7 p.m.) March 11

Work Session (5:30 p.m.) & RFAB Recommendations (7 p.m.) May 13

Mr. Hudgins asked for comments on the dates (listed above) suggested for the first cycle meetings of 2013. Mr. Schultz suggested a stipulation that the first cycle be used to address projects that would need funding by the summer.

Mr. Hudgins motioned for the meeting to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.