

DRAFT MINUTES
Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting
November 10, 2008

Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman	Carolyn Brown
Edward Rhodes - Vice-chairman	Charles Randolph
Carlisle Bannister	Charles Southall
John Barr	

Members Not Present

Jim Deibler
Jesse "Jimmie" Duell

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.

At 7:15 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Jane McCroskey provided a Power Point presentation on the status of the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund (VSRFDF). The presentation showed the downward trend of license sales, obligations currently on the fund, and the amount available for discussion. If the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries transfers \$84,296 in November for the October license sales, the amount available for projects will be \$338,487. For on-going projects and general fund substitutions for VMRC, at least \$1,203,300 needs to be collected from license sales for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. Ms. McCroskey estimated that it would take license sales through August or September of 2009 to collect the \$1.2 million. Ms. McCroskey suggested a delay in the next project review cycle until sufficient funds are collected.

Mr. Hudgins adjusted the agenda and moved the discussion, of the changes to the Quinby Harbor Enhancements Project (RF 07-17: \$294,375), towards the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Stewart Hall, Mr. Mark Wallace, and Mr. Chris Frye were in attendance to answer any questions on the project. Mr. Hall explained that only 1 bid was received on the original project proposal, and it was more than double the engineer's estimated cost. The County of Accomack is requesting some changes in the scope of work, so that the project may move forward. One change requested is to extend the grant period for another year. Other changes were to remove the parking lot improvements from the project scope of work and to substitute a fixed dock for the proposed floating dock on the southern side of the boat ramp. Mr. Hall hopes that, with these changes, additional and more affordable contractor bids will be received. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the changes and was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The vote passed 7-0.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft September 8, 2008 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes, with one correction. Mr. Southall seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal.

- A) 2009 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 12). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$6,000.** Mr. Rhodes made a motion to

recommend the funding for both Items A and B and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0. If enough funds were not available in the VSRFDF, the funding for Items A and B would be reduced evenly.

- B) 2009 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 8). Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,000**. See Item A.
- C) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds FY 2009. Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$321,820**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Bannister. Mr. Barr amended the motion to include the reallocation of \$290,000 of the funds available for artificial reef deployments to be used for the partial funding of this project. Mr. Barr wanted to make sure approximately \$200,000 would be available to the Artificial Reef Program to meet the 6,000 ton deployment quota required for 2009. Mr. Randolph accepted the amendment and the vote passed 7-0.
- D) Improving Stock Assessment of Weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*) – Year 2. Y. Jiao, D. Orth, VPI & SU, and R. O'Reilly, VMRC. **\$130,876**. Mr. Southall made a motion to recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The vote passed 7-0.
- E) 2009 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 15). J. Lucy, VIMS and L. Gillingham, VMRC. **\$86,698**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The vote passed 7-0.

New Projects.

- F) Migrations of Adult Summer Flounder from Chesapeake Bay: Implications for Stock Structure. M. Fabrizio, M. Henderson, VIMS. **\$83,605**. Mr. Bannister made a motion to recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Barr. Ms. Brown voiced her concern of using artificial reef deployment funds to provide funding for a new research project. The vote passed 6-1.
- G) Use of Pop-Up Satellite Archival Tags (PSATs) to Determine the Fate, Movements, and Habitat Utilization of Red Drum Released from Virginia's Recreational Fishery. J. Graves, A. Horodysky, J. Lucy, VIMS. **\$93,569**. Mr. Southall made a motion to recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. Ms. Brown voiced her concern of using artificial reef deployment funds to provide funding for a new research project. The vote passed 4-3. Because of the return of a test tag, the cost of one tag could be removed from the requested amount. The RFAB reviewed this project in the amount of \$89,569, which is a reduction of \$4,000. (Dr. Graves contacted Ms. Davis, the following day, to remind the RFAB that it would cost \$800 to refurbish the tag, so the actual project cost would be \$90,369. The RFAB members were queried and no members had any objection to the change.)
- H) Seasonal Caloric Needs and Energy Intake of Chesapeake Bay's Predatory Fishes: Which Prey Fuel Growth and Reproduction? A. Horodysky, R. Latour, VIMS. **\$40,060**. Mr. Barr made a motion to not recommend the funding of this project and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0. Mr. Barr said that of all the projects reviewed this cycle, this project would provide the least benefit to the recreational anglers.

Mr. Mike Meier provided some estimates on the current available VSRFDF deployment funds and expenditure commitments of the Artificial Reef Program. He also made a request to use some existing deployment funds to purchase 2 replacement, heavy-duty trucks for the Program. The RFAB members discussed the funds available, and the reallocation of \$290,000 to help support the Wallop-Breaux match (Item C). The RFAB members wanted to make sure Mr. Meier had approximately \$200,000 available to begin deployments for 2009. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the use of \$60,000 for the purchase 2 trucks and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0.

During the Work Session meeting earlier in the evening, staff requested that the RFAB rank the projects, which are recommended to the Commission for funding, in a priority order. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to rank the projects in the following order and was seconded by Mr. Randolph:

Funding Priority 1: Item C

Funding Priority 2: Items A and B

Funding Priority 3: Item E

Funding Priority 4: Item D

Funding Priority 5: Item F

Funding Priority 6: Item G

The vote passed 7-0.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to recommend to the Commission, the withdrawal of the \$173,151 allocated for the Saxis Fishing Pier Expansion. The funds would be used to fund projects in the funding priority order. A letter is to be sent to the Mayor of Saxis informing him of this recommendation. Mayor Tull would be notified that if the project is ready to move forward, he may appeal the RFAB recommendation to the Commission on November 25, 2008. Also, if the Mayor is not ready to proceed with the project, the RFAB agrees to review the project again at a later date. Mr. Barr seconded the motion, and the vote passed 7-0.

Because of the lack of funds currently in the VSRFDF and the unknown trend of license sales, the RFAB members decided to tentatively set the next meeting for May 11, 2009. The tentative date set for application submission is April 15, 2009.

Chairman Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Note: Audio files of the meeting are available at <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/vsrfdf/index.shtm> (Choose, Current Proposals, on the left-hand menu)