

# FINAL MINUTES

## Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting

### September 11, 2006

#### Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman  
Edward Rhodes - Vice-Chairman  
John Barr  
Carolyn Brown

Jim Deibler  
Jesse "Jimmie" Duell  
Charles Randolph

#### Members Not Present

Carlisle Bannister  
Charles Southall

At 7:10 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Sonya Davis presented the final expenditures for the Northampton County Angler's Club (NCAC), 2006 Early Summer Children's Fishing Program. The entire cost of the project was reduced from \$2,430 to \$1,984.23. Rough weather and children not showing for the boat trip reduced the total project expenditures. The original contract listed NCAC as providing \$1,330 (55%) and the recreational fund as providing \$1,100 (45%). The NCAC has requested the entire approved amount of \$1,100. With the reduced expenditures, NCAC will not meet the contractual match requirement. If approved, the recreational fund would provide 55% and NCAC only 45%. Staff wanted the Board's approval before processing the reimbursement check. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the full \$1,100. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion, and the vote was 6-0 with Mr. Barr abstaining to approve the expenditure.

Ms. Jane McCroskey stated that \$1.8 million is the estimated amount of revenue to be accumulated by the end of September 2006.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft July 2006 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Brown seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

#### **Multi-Year Projects for Renewal.**

- A) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds FY 2007. Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$225,000**. Larry Snider (CCA of VA): The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) acknowledged the increase in match funding of \$100,000 from the commercial fund for this cycle. However, the commercial fund is still not providing the 50/50 split that the CCA would like to see. The CCA does recognize the importance of the studies funded with federal aid. They would not want to see a disruption of the studies caused by a lack of state funding.

- B) 2007 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 10). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association. **\$6,000**. No comments.
- C) 2007 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 6). W. Brown, A. Nogiec, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,000**. No comments.
- D) 2007 CCA Tidewater Youth Fishing Day (Year 10). T. Johnson, D. Hickman, B. Dieffenbach, Coastal Conservation Association, Tidewater Chapter. **\$6,000**. No comments.
- E) Sheepshead Population Dynamics in Chesapeake Bay, Virginia (Year 2). H. Liao, S. Haga, C. Jones, ODURF/CQFE. **\$65,777**. Larry Snider (CCA of VA): The CCA supports the study of this species, especially with the increase of recreational fishing pressure over the last few years. They commend the researchers for providing information to the public as the current study progresses. The CCA wants to encourage the Commission to set some interim regulations on sheepshead, while the studies are being conducted. The CCA realizes that recommendations on regulations may not be part of the charter for this Board, but they hope the RFAB would provide support for interim regulatory action.
- F) Artificial Reef, Funding for Deployment of Structure 2006-2007. Mike Meier, VMRC. **\$200,000**. Larry Snider (CCA of VA): The CCA supports the Artificial Reef Program and feels this is the type of project that recreational funds should be focused on. The CCA suggests as much as double the requested amount. Mr. Meier gave a brief update on the current deployments and plans for the Poquoson and Northern Neck reef sites. Mr. Hudgins asked Mr. Meier if he would be able to spend the additional amount as suggested by the CCA. Mr. Meier replied that the additional funds could be used to create additional fabricated materials, and also used for deployments if more bridge materials become available. Mr. Hudgins asked if demolition material was the most cost effective. Mr. Meier indicated that it was the most cost effective material. Mr. Randolph asked if anyone had checked with the people tasked with the demolition of Coliseum Mall. Mr. Meier said that he was told that the lightweight concrete, used on the mall, would be recycled. Mr. Meier also mentioned the status of the Wilson Bridge demolition. There is some indication that the EPA may have problems with deployment of the Wilson Bridge material. Ms. Brown asked if there were anymore railway cars available. Mr. Meier said that in 2 years a small number of stainless steel railway cars may come available. The plan is to give priority to those states that received the redbird railway cars in the past. Mr. Meier has informed the Transit Authority that Virginia is interested in more railway cars.
- G) 2007 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 13). J. Lucy, VIMS and C. Bain, VMRC. **\$64,787**. No comments.

### **New Projects.**

- H) Ocean View Recreational Fishing and Education Pier. Stanley Stein, Assistant City Manager, Norfolk. **\$215,850**. Tom Johnson (resident of the area): Mr. Johnson supports the establishment of a community fishing pier. He does have two concerns for the area of the project proposal. One concern is with the amount of trash currently thrown in the

water and on the beach of the recreational center by anglers and crabbers. He hopes the surrounding communities and the City of Norfolk will make a better effort to keep the area clear of litter. Mr. Johnson supports the dawn to dusk time period for use of the fishing pier. The second concern is with the distance between the proposed fishing pier and existing piers across Pretty Lake. With less than 300 feet and an already increasing amount of boat traffic through the area, there is a safety issue. He hopes the City will make an effort to have the area changed to a no wake zone (bridge to first channel marker). Mr. Johnson hopes the RFAB would be willing to support his suggestions to solve these problems in conjunction with the approval of this project. Mr. Rhodes suggested to Mr. Johnson to contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to pursue the establishment of a no wake zone, whether this project is approved or not. Mr. Randolph asked if the contracts still include requirements to maintain the area. Ms. McCroskey reminded the Board that a “provisions checklist” would also be agreed upon at the November RFAB meeting, if the project is recommended for approval. The Board usually checks the requirements for maintenance and enforcement of the area. Mr. Barr stated that the Board’s provisions would only affect the fishing pier itself, and not the surrounding areas that Mr. Johnson is speaking of. Mr. Barr recommended that the residents continue speaking with the Civic League and City Manager to resolve the problems for the entire area.

- I) Monitoring Mycobacteriosis in Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass, *Morone saxatilis*: Tracking the State of the Epizootic. D. Gauthier, W. Vogelbein, K. Reece, VIMS. **\$59,312**. Larry Snider (CCA of VA): Mr. Snider reiterated what was submitted in the written comments from the CCA. The CCA feels this project should be funded 50/50 between the recreational and commercial sectors. The CCA members were confused with the reference to the federal funding source mentioned in the application. Also, the CCA members ask if this project was submitted to the Commercial Fishing Advisory Board (CFAB). Kim Reece (VIMS) said that the samples were collected from the Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program (ChesMMAAP), which is a federal/state funded collection program. Receipt of samples from the ChesMMAAP survey greatly reduced the amount needed to fund the proposed project. The funding requested is for costs associated with processing the animals, genetic analysis, DNA finger printing and disease survey in the laboratory. Ms. Davis informed everyone that this proposal had been submitted and reviewed by the CFAB in June 2006. Funding was not recommended for this project, because the approval of other commercial projects committed all available revenue.
- J) Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) as essential fish habitat in lower Chesapeake Bay: Linking variation in SAV, forage animal production, and sportfish abundance. J. E. Duffy, R. Latour, J. van Montfrans, VIMS. **\$69,268**. Larry Snider (CCA of VA): Mr. Snider restated what was submitted in the written comments from the CCA (qualified, limited support). In the past, the CCA has supported all of the various Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) projects. The main reason for the change in support is due to the lack of regulatory action to protect the SAV beds. Even when studies have shown the need, such as in the boat scarring study, action by the Commission has not been taken to protect or enhance the beds. This change of support in no way reflects dissatisfaction with the work of the researchers. Until some “plan of action” is agreed upon by VMRC/VIMS to protect the SAVs, the CCA would prefer not to fund these types of studies. James Douglass and Paul Richardson (VIMS) were in attendance for Emmett Duffy. Mr. Douglass explained that the proposed work is to identify the links between

the invertebrate grazers that live in the grasses and keep the beds clean and healthy, and the gamefish that forage in the grass beds for food. Mr. Richardson informed the Board that they currently have 9 years of data on the residents of the grass beds and other data on shrimp, crabs and juvenile fish. The trends are showing a decline in fishes over the last 9 years. Information is available and will continue to be available to fisheries managers to make regulatory decisions, if necessary. Mr. Randolph asked Mr. Travelstead if SAV study areas could be set aside by the Commission to protect the areas where the research is being done. Mr. Travelstead explained that the Commission has the authority to set areas aside, if needed. He went on to inform the Board of some protected areas on the Eastern Shore that were just expanded at the last Commission meeting. Mr. Randolph asked how they would go about protecting other areas under study. Mr. Travelstead explained that the researchers must put forth a proposal to the Habitat Management Division, which would then be presented to the Commission and the public. Mr. Rhodes asked how much of this study overlaps with J. J. Orth's (VIMS) SAV studies. Mr. Richardson explained that Dr. Orth's studies are more related to the establishment and rehabilitation of SAV grass beds. The proposed study is more of a focus of the communities living within the grass beds and the food web links to the fish predators. Mr. Douglas reiterated the focus of the proposed project.

- K) A Genetic Assessment of the Potential for Local Depletion of Atlantic Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) within Chesapeake Bay. J. Graves, J. McDowell, R. Latour, A. Lynch, VIMS. **\$57,172**. No comments.
- L) Utility of Alternative Reefs to Simultaneously Enhance Recreational Fish Production and Oyster Restoration. Rom Lipcius, VIMS. **\$199,643**. Larry Snider (CCA of VA): Mr. Snider restated what was submitted in the written comments from the CCA (qualified support). The CCA wants a deep water location added to the study, so that information could be utilized by the current VMRC Artificial Reef Program. Mr. Barr asked Mr. Meier if the VIMS investigators had discussed the study with him. Mr. Meier indicated that he was aware of the project and had briefly met with Dr. Lipcius. Mr. Meier would gladly work with Dr. Lipcius to align the proposed project with the Artificial Reef Program. Russell Burke was in attendance for Dr. Lipcius. Mr. Barr asked him about the water depths they plan to add for the deeper water sites. Mr. Burke explained that the Lynnhaven Bay sites were approximately 6 feet deep. Mr. Burke said the study is flexible. If the recreational fishers believe a deep water site should be added, they could include one. He believed that the Mobjack Bay was about twice or maybe three times the depth of the Lynnhaven Bay system. Mr. Meier added that the depth in the area of the Mobjack Artificial Reef is about 24 to 26 feet deep, on average. Mr. Barr asked if Mr. Burke would work with Mr. Meier to coordinate a good study location on the new Mobjack Artificial Reef site. Mr. Burke said he and the other investigators would be happy to work with Mr. Meier to find the best deep water location. Also, Mr. Burke pointed out that Dr. Lipcius' response to the comments and peer reviews indicate that alternate funding would be used on the shellfish side of the study and not draw recreational funding from the finfish side.
- M) Prey Availability and Enhanced Production of Artificial Reefs for Recreational Fish and Native Oysters. Rochelle Seitz, VIMS. **\$45,944**. Russell Burke was in attendance for Dr. Seitz. Mr. Barr asked if Mr. Burke could explain the difference between the two proposals (Items L and M) and why they were not submitted as one project. Mr. Burke referred to the written responses submitted by, Dr. Seitz and Dr. Lipcius, that costs could

be reduced with shared vessel time and personnel. However, because the PIs are from different departments (Biological Science and Fisheries Science), the studies need to remain as two separate projects for reporting and accounting reasons. Mr. Barr asked where the modified budget, indicating the savings, was. Ms. Davis said she would contact Ms. Lopez (VIMS, Sponsored Research Director) and have the revised budgets available at the next meeting.

The next RFAB meeting date is November 13 at 5:30 p.m. (review session) and 7:00 p.m. (final recommendations).

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