

**Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2013 Cycle 1 Presentation Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2013**

Board Members Present

Ed Rhodes
Carlisle Bannister
Jimmie Duell
Charles Randolph
Ken Schultz
Charles Southall

Board Members Absent

Jim Deibler
Carolyn Brown
George Hudgins

Staff Present

Rob O'Reilly
Jane McCroskey
Joe Grist
Alicia Nelson
Sally Roman
Sharon Wilson

Others Present

Greg Brown
Joseph Stevenson
Bob Pride

The minutes were prepared by Sally Roman and Alicia Nelson.

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Rhodes.

II. Status of Fund.

Ms. McCroskey discussed the budget, and Mr. Southall asked about the budget issue associated with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Ms. McCroskey answered that the Administration and Finance Department is working on the issue with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and that the range is potentially large.

Ms. McCroskey said that the telephone registration contract for the Fishermen Identification Program (FIP) would be ending in August, 2013, and that VMRC will have to look for a replacement company to handle the phone registration. She said that another state agency, The Department of the Blind and Vision Impaired, may be able to provide the same level of service as the current contractor, and staff will be meeting with representatives from that agency next week. Ms. McCroskey said that the phone service is in place for registration services only (not to answer questions), and she said that about 30% of the registrations are done over the phone versus the online system. Each call averages one to two minutes. She said that if the Department

of the Blind and Vision Impaired can perform the service, then we have to work with them. If not, they will provide a written waiver, and we will have to find another contractor.

Mr. Bannister asked if the contractor was the same for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries HIP program, and Ms. McCroskey replied that it is. Mr. Bannister also asked if Maryland staff had been contacted, since they have a similar program. Ms. McCroskey replied there she has not met with Maryland recently.

Mr. Schultz asked how many individuals use the phone system versus the number that self-report. Ms. McCroskey replied that approximately 30 percent of the registrations are done over the phone. Mr. Schultz asked if it was more difficult for someone to register online than over the phone, and Ms. McCroskey said that it is the exact same form for both. She mentioned that the data is submitted the same way for both methods.

Mr. Rhodes asked if the money comes from the increase in the boat sale license. Ms. McCroskey answered yes. She said that they were initially planning to run the program differently, but we received additional guidance from the legislature. She said that different states do it different ways. Mr. Rhodes clarified that there was a feeling with some of the legislators that not everyone had internet capability, so they wanted to keep the telephone portion viable. The intent was that the telephone portion would eventually go away.

Mr. Rhodes also asked that the Atlantic menhaden and blue crab presentation given by Commissioner Travelstead at the Sportsman's caucus be sent out to the committee.

III. Review of Minutes from January 2013 RFAB Meeting

Mr. Rhodes asked if the board had any changes or amendments to the January 2013 meeting notes. Mr. Schultz corrected the name of the representative of the Eastern Shore Anglers Club as Bill Creager (instead of Bob Prager) in the attendance list and Item E.

Mr. Schultz motioned to approve the meeting minutes after the amendment for the name correction, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Southall. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Multi-Year Projects for 2013 Renewal

A. 2013 Chincoteague Island Charter Boat Association “TAKE A KID FISHING DAY.” Charlie Koski, Chincoteague Island Charter Boat Association: \$2,088.65

There were no comments on the item.

B. 2013 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day (Year 26). Greg Brown, \$7,437.80.

Mr. Brown commented that there are 200 kids who wanted to go fishing with support from the MRC.

C. 2013 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and clinics. Joseph Stephenson; Paul Anderson, Great Bridge Fisherman’s Association. \$5,350

Mr. Rhodes asked Mr. Stephenson why this project had a higher cost per reel than other projects. Mr. Stephenson responded that many of the participants are handicapped and need to have higher quality bait caster rod and reels. Mr. Stephenson said that the GBFA is trying to accumulate enough rods and reels so that they do not have to purchase more each year.

Mr. Stephenson was asked if he contacted dealers to get a discount. Mr. Stephenson said that they are trying to get listed as a 501C to get a discount, but without the listing is difficult to get a reduced rate from dealers.

D. 2013 Youth Developmental “Hooked on Fishing” Adventure (year 6). Bob Hewlett, Bob Pride, Virginia Charter Boat Association. \$12,960.

Mr. Southall asked about the higher cost of the project compared to others, and Mr. Pride said that the cost is mostly fuel usage which used to be donated by captains. He said that the number of participants also makes it higher than other projects.

Mr. Randolph asked how many kids participated in the project, and Mr. Pride said that last year, they took about 230, but had budgeted for 300 kids. The left over funds were returned.

Mr. Rhodes asked if there was an estimated cost per child. Mr. Pride replied that it can be calculated, but there are other costs associated with the project that are soft. Mr. Pride asked if the Board wanted a hard or soft cost, and Mr. Rhodes replied to start with a hard cost.

Mr. Bannister asked if the in-kind gift of captain is fair market value for time excluding fuel costs and other costs in budget, and Mr. Pride responded that it was.

E. 2013 Saxis and Morley's Wharf Fishing Piers Youth Fishing Tournaments (Year 12). Allen Evans, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. \$2,000

There were no comments on this item.

F. 2013 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program (Year 11). Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Angler Club/ Sunshine Program. \$7,725.

There were no comments on this item.

G. *Item G was withdrawn by the applicant

Other comments:

Ms. McCroskey gave an update on a previously approved project (Chincoteague Historic Bridge Project). The applicant had contacted staff about some potential changes to the project. Ms. Nelson explained that the town had other funding for nearby projects from the Department of Conservation and Recreation and were considering combining the projects to use one as match for the other.

Mr. Rhodes asked if the project received money from DCR, would it reduce the MRC cost, and Ms. McCroskey replied that it would not. They intended to use the MRC funds as match.

Mr. Shultz asked if this issue would be revisited this in May by the Board, and Mr. McCroskey and Ms. Nelson stated that it was a possibility, but that it may be better to address it in the next cycle.

Mr. Randolph asked if changes occur would the Board have to redo the application or make an amendment, and Ms. McCroskey stated that most changes have been addressed in amendments, but this has not occurred when a project is near final contract time. Mr. Randolph asked if the project participants aware of all of this, and Mr. McCroskey replied that they were.

Mr. Rhodes asked about needing new permits and if the project would need to submit an Army Core permit, and Ms. McCroskey said that the VMRC is the clearing house for permits, and if a new permit would be needed, they would submit a joint permit application.

Mr. Rhodes asked if Ms. Nelson was going up to meet with the town, and asked that Board member Mr. Ken Shultz could sit in on the meeting. Ms. Nelson thought that she would be meeting with the organization in Chincoteague.

Mr. Rob O'Reilly stated he thought the meeting was a good idea, and that there should be a report in May.

Mr. Shultz commented that if applicants make significant changes, then they should restart the application process because there would need to be public comment period and involvement from the board.

V. Research Projects for 2013.

H. Restoration of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat in Chesapeake Bay and the Virginia Coastal Bays. Robert Orth, VIMS. \$148,286

There were no comments on the item.

VI. Tentative Dates for Future 2013 RFAB Meetings (First Cycle)

Public Hearing (7pm), March 11, 2013

Work Session (5:30pm)&Final Recommendations (7pm), May 13, 2013

Second Cycle Project Applications due: June 15, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.