

MINUTES

AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**June 30, 2022
3:00 to 3:30 pm**

Commission Room
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96
Fort Monroe, Virginia

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Members Present

Beverly Ludford
Kim Huskey
A.J. Erskine WebEx
Russ Perkinson via WebEx

Members Present

Mike Oesterling
Ann Gallivan
Jay Ford via WebEx

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Ben Stagg
Andrew Button
Jamie Hogge
Andy Shin
Melissa Southworth, VIMS via WebEx
Roger Mann, VIMS via WebEx
Adam Wood, VDH/DSS

Beverly Ludford, Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m.

VMRC Shellfish Management Division update:

Ben Stagg, Chief, Shellfish Management Division, provided an update VMRC Shellfish Management Division for the Committee Members. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Mr. Stagg announced the new hire to the Shellfish Management Division, Savannah Longest as the Shellfish Aquaculture Specialist. Mr. Stagg explained the Shellfish Management Division's funding for the new hire and Ms. Longest explained some of her tasks within the Division. Mr. Stagg also explained that the Conservation and Replenishment Department will cross-train with the Engineering & Surveying Department to assist with the duties in an effort to complete the backlogged application requests.

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Old Business:

Mrs. Ludford spoke about the importance of oyster farming as it supports the waterman, the industry and the Commonwealth. She also stated that the Advisory Committee needs to work on improvements to the various challenges that may prevent others from growing oysters in Virginia. Mrs. Ludford also discussed the number of pending lease applications, lease renewals, lease transfers, protested lease applications, the difficulty in obtaining a lease and the inability to work the ground if an approved lease becomes closed by the Virginia Dept. of Health/Division of Shellfish Safety (VDH/DSS). Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Mr. Stagg provided further information in regards to the protested lease applications. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

There were suggestions from the Members to publicize leases that are not being used which may become available from lease holders for others to work.

New Business:

Mrs. Ludford recommended the next meeting be held in September or every 3 months to bring ideas, current and potential, before the Committee for discussion. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Other members recommended that quarterly meetings are not necessary as the items for discussion are not pressing. It was also suggested that AMAC meeting is held on the same date as the SMAC meeting.

Member Ann Gallivan suggested that the agenda and all documents that are up for discussion be sent to the Advisory Members at least a week in advance to give time for members to review material. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Associate Member Kim Huskey made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Associate Member Ann Gallivan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:20 p.m.

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