

Meeting Minutes

Virginia Commercial Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Virtual meeting, Monday, November 6, 2023
3:00 pm

Members Present:

JJ Minor
Lynn Kellum
Ben Johnson
Daniel Dise
Revel Walker
Jason Smith
Ross Kellum

The minutes were recorded by Rachael Peabody. A recording of the meeting is available.

- I. Introduction by staff Alicia Nelson
- II. Current applications:
 - A) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds Federal FY 2024. Patrick Geer, VMRC, **\$148,809 (119,047 from VSRFDF, 29,762 from MFIF). Approved Unanimously**
 - B) Biological Monitoring of River Herring in Virginia; additional project funds. Patrick Geer, VMRC, **32,000.- Approved Unanimously**
 - C) Estimating relative abundance of young-of-year American eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, in the Virginia tributaries of Chesapeake Bay 2024. Mary Fabrizio, VIMS. **\$31,558 (\$15,779 from VSRFDF, and \$15,779 from MFIF). – Approved Unanimously**
- III. Spiny Dogfish Industry Economic Support – Staff presented an update on the current issues related to the spiny dogfish fishery after losing the primary buyer. This has left a gap for the upcoming winter season. The industry has reached out to the VMRC requesting assistance for the 2023/2024 season to support a dealer for this season. Staff presented the option of creating a request for proposals to utilize MFIF funds to support a proposal to buy spiny dogfish at a location within or near Rudee Inlet. **The board voted unanimously in support of the RFP approach.**