

FINAL MINUTES
Recreational Fishing Advisory Board (RFAB) Meeting
September 12, 2011

Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman	H. "Jim" Deibler
Edward Rhodes - Vice-chairman	J. "Jimmie" Duell
Carlisle Bannister	Charles Randolph
John Barr	Charles Southall

Members Not Present

Carolyn Brown

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 7:05 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Jane McCroskey provided a brief status report of the budget through August 2011. She explained that the report shows a balance of slightly over \$1.7 million. This report includes the expenses for the on-going projects and the VMRC obligations for July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The amount available is still slightly more than expected, because of the one-time license sales reconciliation that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries completed a few years ago, and the return of some unused Law Enforcement monies. Ms. McCroskey explained that the commercial fund had about \$123,000 available for projects this year.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft July 11, 2011 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Duell seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Items A, B, C, and D were recommended for funding by the RFAB on May 9, 2011, and the Commission approved the expenditures on June 28, 2011.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to vote on Items E, G, H, J, and P together and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The vote passed 8-0. Mr. Southall made a motion to recommend the funding of Items E, G, H, J, and P and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 8-0.

- E) 2011 Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection (Year 5). J. Grist, J. Cimino, VMRC. **\$11,500.**
- G) 2012 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 15). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$6,500.**
- H) 2012 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 11). Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,500.**
- J) 2012 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 18). S. Musick, VIMS and L. Gillingham, VMRC. **\$70,213.**

- P) 2012 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. Ned Smith, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,010.**
- I) 2012 Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay. M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. **\$46,658.** Mr. Bannister made a motion to approve the funding and to remind the applicant to make a presentation of the project next year. Mr. Rhodes made an amendment to the motion to recommend the funding of \$23,329 and was seconded by Mr. Southall. Mr. Bannister accepted the amendment. The vote passed 8-0, provided that the commercial Marine Fishing Improvement Fund furnishes the additional \$23,329.
- K) Phase 1 Dredge - Jackson Creek. Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator of Middlesex. **\$78,750.** In July, item was withdrawn by the applicant, with no reason given.
- L) Bennett's Creek Park Fishing Pier Replacement. Michael Kelly, City of Suffolk. **\$75,000.** Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 8-0. The access facilities checklist was briefly reviewed with Mr. Kelly. Mr. Kelly accepted the items on the checklist on behalf of the City. The reimbursement funding is also contingent on the City of Suffolk being able to obtain all necessary permits.
- M) Survey Design for Adult Atlantic Menhaden along the U.S. East Coast. Robert Latour, VIMS. **\$55,373.** Mr. Randolph made a motion to not recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The vote passed 8-0. The reason for the denial was because they felt that sufficient recreational funds, over the years, have been dedicated to the study of menhaden. Also, the RFAB wants to see the results from the VIMS (PI: Dr. Kirkley) socio-economic study on menhaden before considering any additional projects.
- N) Examining Stock Composition of Migratory Striped Bass. David Gauthier, ODURF. **\$82,351.** Mr. Randolph made a motion to not recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Barr. The vote passed 8-0. The reason for the denial was because they felt that sufficient recreational funds, over the years, have been dedicated to the study of striped bass. They did not believe that the information collected from this study would be of a benefit to recreational anglers.
- O) Population Dynamics of Overwintering Speckled Trout on the Elizabeth River in Chesapeake Bay. C. Jones, S. Beharry, ODURF. **\$64,871.** Mr. Deibler made a motion to not recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Southall. The vote passed 8-0. The reasons for the denial were because they felt that this study was specific for one small area, Virginia Dominion Power may be closing the facility in the next year or so and it may not continue as a "hot ditch" area, and regulation of the species may still continue without the information that would be provided from this study. However, if the facility does not close, the RFAB has invited the investigators to return with another project proposal.
- Q) 2012 CCA Northern VA "Save a Kid, Catch a Fish". J. Bello, G. Lenard, Coastal Conservation Association – Northern VA. **\$2,700.** Mr. Bannister made a motion to not recommend the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 8-0. The

reasons given were because they felt that most of the children were coming from the Washington, DC area and that they were using charter boats from Deal, MD, the nearest port. This program would not benefit a large number of children from Virginia or utilize the Virginia charter and head boat industry. No one was in attendance of the meeting to discuss this program further.

- F) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds, Federal FY 2012. Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$321,856**. Mr. Barr made a motion to recommend the funding of \$286,856 and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The vote passed 8-0, provided that the commercial Marine Fishing Improvement Fund furnishes the additional \$35,000.

Mr. Barr made a motion to continue with only one project review cycle and was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The vote passed 8-0. The tentative dates for the 2012 meetings are May 14, July 9, and September 10. Project applications will be due April 15, 2012. Mr. Randolph asked that the four renewal educational events, which were caught in a bind with the change to one review cycle, be considered for funding recommendations at the May meeting.

Chairman Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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