

FINAL MINUTES
Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting
May 12, 2008

Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman
Carlisle Bannister
John Barr
Carolyn Brown

Jim Deibler
Jesse "Jimmie" Duell
Charles Randolph

Members Not Present

Edward Rhodes - Vice-chairman
Charles Southall

The RFAB Work Session was held from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. These minutes are from the Final Meeting of this project cycle.

At 7:07 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Jane McCroskey informed everyone that the revenue available for projects is estimated as \$2.185 million, as of September 30, 2008. The contracts will be written, so that the approved projects may begin in June, but payments or reimbursements will not be made, until the revenue is collected.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft March 10, 2008 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Bannister made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Deibler seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Mr. Deibler made a motion to vote on Items A, B, and C, together, and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal.

- A) 2008 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club. **\$7,194.**
- B) 2008 Saxis & Morley's Wharf Fishing Pier Youth Fishing Tournaments (Year 7). Allen Evans, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**
- C) 2008 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. D. Hurst, C. Macin, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$4,000.**

Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the funding for Items A, B, and C and was seconded by Mr. Bannister. The vote passed 7-0.

- D) Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection (Year 2). J. Grist, J. Cimino, VMRC. **\$12,000**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 7-0.
- E) Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay (Year 8). Mary Fabrizio, VIMS. **\$45,348**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve 50% of the funding, \$22,674, provided that the Commercial Fund supplies the other 50%, and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0.
- F) Estimating Relative Juvenile Abundance of Recreationally Important Finfish in the Virginia Portion of Chesapeake Bay. Mary Fabrizio, VIMS. ~~\$450,000~~ **Amended to \$74,242**. Mr. Deibler made a motion to deny the funding. The motion failed without a second. Mr. Duell made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. Mr. Deibler said that he thought this project was a duplication of effort with the ChesMMAP (Item M) study. The vote passed 6-1.
- G) Estimate and Assess Social and Economic Importance and Value of Menhaden to Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders and Region (3 Year Study) - Year 2. James Kirkley, VIMS. **\$236,479**. Mr. Deibler asked Dr. Kirkley to review the status of the 12 tasks listed for the first year. Dr. Kirkley explained that new information has become available on menhaden, with regards to water quality and prey. One piece of new information is that menhaden are feeding on zooplankton, as well as phytoplankton. As a consequence, under certain conditions, menhaden can actually deteriorate water quality. This new information is running counter to the modeling and peer reviewed literature that has been available. This has caused the researchers to rethink the gathering of information on the benefits of menhaden to the stakeholders. Dr. Kirkley said they were designing more question formats that will mitigate the stakeholder bias of the perceived benefits. Of the 12 tasks listed, generally, they have been completed except for some enhancements under Tasks 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, and 12. Mr. Barr reminded the other members that last year's discussions pointed out that no benefits would be realized whatsoever, and the \$313,403 from the first year would be wasted, if you did not fund the entire 3 years. Mr. Randolph asked Dr. Kirkley how the bill before Congress to stop all menhaden fishing would affect this study. Dr. Kirkley said that if the bill passed then this study would not be necessary, unless the state of Virginia becomes serious about developing ecosystem management plans. The study could be tweaked to take advantage of what information has already been gathered and leave out the contributions of the fishery that may be closed by the bill. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve a portion of the funding, \$205,479, provided that the Commercial Fund supplies the additional \$31,000, and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The vote passed 5-2.
- H) Enhancement and Sentinel Reefs for the Virginia Artificial Reef Network. Rom Lipcius, VIMS. **\$153,946**. Mr. Deibler said that he thought this project was a duplication of effort with Virginia's Artificial Reef Program; and this project supported the oyster industry, as much as the fishing industry. Mr. Barr also said that this would be a duplication of monitoring effort with other, recently funded artificial reef projects. Mr. Barr continued to say that the concrete reef ball design has already been established as good reef material for fish, however, in recent years much of the material deployed on the

reef sites has been “materials of opportunity” and not designed structure. Dr. Lipcius let everyone know that the oyster part of this project and for Dr. Seitz’s project (Item I) have been removed. The focus has changed to fish and the better fish locations, such as the Poquoson and Northern Neck reef sites. One of the reasons for this study was because the Artificial Reef Program used “materials of opportunity”, and there was no standardized way to assess why a reef was working, or whether a reef design would work somewhere else. The design of this study is to deploy smaller, mobile, relatively inexpensive modules that could be placed in multiple locations to assess why a reef is not working, like at the Northern Neck site. Part of the Northern Neck reef is not in a good location, because of low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, and you will not be able to detect the effects with the reef balls. Dr. Lipcius feels that the Artificial Reef Program is deploying expensive material in locations that may not be productive, such as the reef balls on the Northern Neck site, which are too small and too low for the area. The intent of the project is to utilize only a small amount of money to deploy the test modules and determine the best locations, before Mr. Meier deploys thousands of dollars of “materials of opportunity”. Mr. Deibler disagreed that the Northern Neck Reef was not productive. Dr. Lipcius clarified that only a small area on the southwestern side of the reef was not productive, because of low DO, and not the entire site. With these second year projects, Dr. Lipcius and Dr. Seitz would like to expand the number of modules deployed on the Northern Neck and Poquoson sites, and possibly move some modules to other established reef sites. Mr. Meier concurred with the assessment of the small unproductive area on the Northern Neck Reef, and pointed out that the low DO varied from year to year and sometimes season to season. Mr. Meier indicated that his Program could monitor things like DO with the equipment to be purchased in 2008. Mr. Deibler made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0.

- I) Habitat Suitability for Artificial Recreational Fish and Oyster Reefs. Rochelle Seitz, VIMS. **\$61,076**. Most of the discussion for this project was included in the discussion of Item H. Mr. Barr stated that he still felt this project had a strong lean toward the oyster, and he did not see the benefit for the recreational fishermen. Mr. Barr made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 7-0.
- J) Enhancing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat: Research and Education for Restoration (Year 14). Robert Orth, VIMS. ~~\$90,000~~ **Funding request withdrawn**. Dr. Orth was given the opportunity to speak between Agenda Items II and III. Dr. Orth has withdrawn his funding request for this year. Through judicious savings of the recreational saltwater license funds, allocated last year, and funds provided from other sources, he was able to withdraw this request. He thanked the Board for their past support. He also gave a brief synopsis of the successes and restoration work continuing on the Seaside of the Eastern Shore. Mr. Hudgins, speaking on behalf of the entire Board, thanked Dr. Orth for his diligence in finding other funding sources and freeing monies for other projects.
- K) 2008 Deployment of Artificial Reef Structure. Mike Meier, VMRC. **\$500,000**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0.

New Projects.

L) Buckroe Beach Saltwater Fishing Pier. Fred Whitley, City of Hampton. ~~\$500,000~~ **Amended to \$750,000.** Mr. Hudgins reviewed the standard Facility Grant Provision Checklist. Mr. Whitley and Mr. Wilson agreed, on behalf of the City, to follow the items listed. The Checklist will be included in the contract with the City of Hampton. The City representatives were also given information on the signage requirements for the project. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 7-0.

M) Data collection and analysis in support of single and multispecies stock assessments in Chesapeake Bay: the Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program (ChesMMAP). R. Latour, C. Bonzek, VIMS. ~~\$494,928~~ **Amended to \$94,221.** Mr. Deibler made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 7-0.

The Second Cycle of RFAB meetings are scheduled for July 14, September 8, and November 10. Project applications are due by June 16, 2008.

Chairman Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:55 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)