

FINAL MINUTES

Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting

May 14, 2007

Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman
Edward Rhodes - Vice-chair
Carlisle Bannister
John Barr
Carolyn Brown

Jim Deibler
Jesse "Jimmie" Duell
Charles Randolph
Charles Southall

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

At 7:10 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Jane McCroskey informed everyone that the revenue available for projects is estimated as \$2.9 million, as of September 30, 2007.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft March 12, 2007 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Randolph seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to vote on Items A, B, and C together and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 9-0.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal.

- A) 2007 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club. **\$7,194.**
- B) 2007 Saxis & Morley's Wharf Fishing Pier Youth Fishing Tournaments (Year 6). Allen Evans, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**
- C) 2007 Early Summer Children's Fishing Program. Melvin Dudley, Northampton County Anglers Club. **\$1,100.**

Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding for Items A, B, and C and was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The vote passed 9-0.

- D) Artificial Reef, Funding for Deployment of Structure 2006-2007. Mike Meier, VMRC. **\$150,000.** Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Southall. The vote passed 9-0.

- E) Visual Function in Chesapeake Bay Sport and Prey Fishes: Summer Flounder, Bluefish, Cobia, and Atlantic Menhaden (Year 2). A. Horodysky, R. Brill, R. Latour, VIMS. **\$50,289**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Southall. The vote passed 8-1.
- F) Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay (Year 7). Marcel Montane, VIMS. **\$36,325**. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve 50% of the funding (\$18,162.50) provided that the Commercial Fund supplies the other 50%, and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 9-0.
- G) Enhancing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat: Research and Education for Restoration (Year 13). Robert Orth, VIMS. **\$95,689**. Mr. Bannister made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 9-0.
- H) Estimating Relative Juvenile Abundance of Recreationally Important Finfish and Crustaceans in the Virginia Portion of Chesapeake Bay. M. Fabrizio, M. Montane, VIMS. **\$469,568**. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to deny the funding with the caveat that this project receives Wallop-Breaux funding, and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 9-0. Mr. Southall wanted it noted in the minutes that the recreational community already supports this project and the other Wallop-Breaux projects, by providing state match funding.

New Projects.

- I) Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection (Year 1). Joe Grist, VMRC. **\$12,000**. Mr. Duell made a motion to approve the funding of this item and also Item J, and was seconded by Mr. Southall. The vote passed 9-0.
- J) SAS Licensing and Training for VMRC Technical Staff. Joe Grist, VMRC. **\$38,500**. See Item I above.
- K) Quinby Harbor Enhancements. David Fluhart, Quinby Harbor Committee, Accomack County. ~~**\$352,950**~~ Amended to \$294,375. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Barr. The vote passed 9-0. Mr. Southall commented that the Quinby Harbor Committee has done a superb job in addressing all of the requests from the RFAB, and should be commended. At the end of the meeting, the RFAB reviewed the 10 item Facility Checklist form with the Quinby Harbor Committee members, Mark Wallace, David Farlow, Frank Janos, David Fluhart, and Stewart Hall, Director of Public Works for Accomack County. One change to the Checklist was for the discounted amounts to be provided to Virginia Saltwater License holders to use the boat ramp, \$4.00 daily and \$25.00 seasonal. Others will be charged \$7.00 daily and \$45.00 seasonal. Another change was to the facility areas that will and will not allow commercial gear to be stored. Chris Frye, VHB, will provide a diagram to show the areas where commercial gear will not be allowed at the facility. The Checklist form and diagram will become part of the contract documentation, if funding is approved by the Commission.

- L) Saxis Fishing Pier Expansion. Charles Tull, Mayor, Town of Saxis. **\$132,107**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 9-0. Mr. Barr explained that the reason for denying the funding was that the Town of Saxis needed to have an engineering firm review the budget and provide more accurate figures for the project. Saxis may re-submit an application in the next RFAB project review cycle. Mayor Charles Tull was present, and he explained that the estimate was provided by David Annis with the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC). They used the plans from the original pier and updated the budget with current prices. The A-NPDC estimate was reviewed by Mr. Artie Miles of the engineering firm of George, Miles, and Buhr.
NOTE: There were some concerns mentioned in the Work Session meeting, earlier in the evening, that the cost of project may not equal the expected benefits.
- M) 2007 Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic. D. Hurst, C. Macin, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$2,500**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 9-0. Mr. Randolph commented that though the fishing programs for children are important, it was nice to see a fishing program for older individuals.
- N) Abundance, Distribution and Biology of Sharks and Rays in Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's Coastal Lagoons: Continuation of a Long-term Monitoring and Research Program. D. Grubbs, J. Musick, VIMS. **\$89,073**. Mr. Deibler made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 9-0. Mr. Barr explained that the reason for denying the funding was that this project would not directly benefit the recreational fishing community. Mr. Barr continued to say that he was appointed to this Board to recommend projects that are of interest to the recreational anglers, and all written public comment received were against the funding of this study.
- O) Response of Summer Flounder to Hypoxia in Chesapeake Bay: Physiological Tolerances and Shifts in Habitat Use. M. Fabrizio, R. Brill, VIMS. **\$99,721**. Mr. Barr made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 9-0. The reason for denying the funding was that this project would not directly benefit the recreational fishing community.
- P) Effects of Piscivorous Fishes on Local Juvenile Game Fish Populations. P. McGrath, J. Musick, VIMS. **\$45,530**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 9-0. The reason for denying the funding was that this project would not directly benefit the recreational fishing community.
- Q) Laboratory Investigations of the Ability of Striped Bass to Function under Low Ambient Oxygen Conditions. R. Brill, D. Gauthier, VIMS. **\$81,468**. Mr. Southall made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 9-0. The reason for denying the funding was that this project would not directly benefit the recreational fishing community.
- R) Estimate and Assess Social and Economic Importance and Value of Menhaden to Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders and Region (3 Year Study). James Kirkley, VIMS. ~~\$1,127,235~~ **Amended to \$788,284 (Year 1 request = \$363,403)**. Mr. Randolph made a

motion to approve \$313,403 of the requested funding provided that the Commercial Fund supplies the other \$50,000, and was seconded by Mr. Barr. The vote passed 7-2.

Discussion of Budget Amendments for a Previously Contracted Access Project: Conversion of a Protective Wavescreen into a Saltwater Fishing Pier. Michael Nealer, City of Newport News. The original 2004 request was for \$170,250. The new request is for an additional \$270,583, totaling \$440,833 from the VSRFDF. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the additional funding of \$270,583 and was seconded by Mr. Southall. The vote passed 9-0.

The Second Cycle RFAB meetings are tentatively scheduled for July 9, September 10 and November 5. Project applications are due by June 15, 2007.

Chairman Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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