

**Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2016 Cycle 2 Applicant Presentation Meeting
Monday, July 11, 2016**

Board Members Present

Sheldon Arey
John Crowling
J. T. Holland
Jack Miller
Charles Randolph
Ed Rhodes
Charles Southall

Staff Present

Jane McCroskey
Alicia Nelson
Lewis Gillingham
Debbie Corker
Ryan Jiorle

Board Members Absent

Carolyn Brown
Randy Pack

Others Present

Fred Chemi
Denny Dobbins
Charles Clarkson
Rob Cowling
Stuart McKenzie
James Eisenhower
Jan McDowell
Joe Stephenson
George Reich
Bob Burstein
George Gabriel
William Goldsmith
Kevin Weng
Wesley Brown
Cody Henly
Susanna Musick
Troy Tuckey
Bobby Mawyer

Minutes were recorded by Alicia Nelson. An audio recording of the meeting is available.

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

Prior to the project presentations, Bobby Mawyer, Chief of police of West Point came to thank the board for the support of the new West Point boat ramp. He noted that it was already getting a lot of use, and the board thanked him for his service as well.

Alicia Nelson reiterated that in 2017, the RFAB was moving to a single-cycle per year schedule, with applications due April 15.

II. Status of Fund.

Jane McCroskey provided an update on the fund. At this time, approximately \$883,000 available for projects. The higher than expected balance is partially due to the high months of license sales, but also to the transfer of \$200,000 from DGIF from the sale of lifetime licenses, and also for one-time windfalls. Mr. Randolph asked about license selling trends, and Ms. McCroskey said that she would check on it and get back with the board.

III. Review of Minutes from the May 2016 RFAB Meeting.

Mr. Holland motioned to approve the minutes from the May, 2016 RFAB meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Southall. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Fishing event applications for 2017

- A) 2017 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day (Year 30). Greg Brown, **\$7,510.85.**

Charles Clarkson was available to describe the project. Mr. Rhodes asked to change the request to \$7,500 even for simplicity, and Mr. Clarkson agreed. There were no other questions.

- B) 2017 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. Joseph Stephenson; George Reich, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$3,825.**

Joe Stephenson and George Reich presented the project, and noted that the 2015 event had more people than ever before.

- C) 2017 Saxis and Morley's Wharf Children's Fishing and Conservation Educational Outings. Fred Chemi, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,100.**

Fred Chemi presented the project for the Eastern Shore Anglers Club. The board discussed the age range of the children at the event.

- D) 2017 Virginia Beach Anglers Club/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip. Robert Burstein, Virginia Beach Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**

Robert Burstein and George Gabriel represented the project. Mr. Rhodes noted that this project was very valuable.

- E) 2017 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. James "Ike" Eisenhower, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,200.**

James Eisenhower introduced himself as the new organizer and presented the Norfolk Anglers club project.

- F) 2017 Children's Fishing Clinic. Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$7,500.**

Rob Cowling and Wes Brown presented items F and G together. They described the events, which included demonstrations, fishing, and lunch. They also noted that the Rotary Club event would move back to the newly renovated James River Fishing Pier in 2017, while the Kiwanis Club event would remain at the Buckroe Fishing Pier.

- G) 2017 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$7,500.**

Item G was presented with Item F (above).

- H) 2017 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club/Sunshine Program. **\$11,550.**

Denny Dobbins presented the Sunshine Fishing Program. The club continues to expand the event every year, and events are held nearly every week during the summer.

V. Access Projects for 2017

- I) Northumberland County Dredging of Lodge Landing Public Boat Ramp. Luttrell Tadlock, Northumberland County. **\$22,500.**

Stuart McKenzie from Northumberland County presented the dredge project. He explained that the construction plans and permits were written for four feet MLW (mean low water) just in case, but that the plans and budget were for 3 feet. The board encouraged the County to dredge deeper to accommodate larger vessels, and Mr. Crowley offered to provide some information about hydraulic dredging that they had just completed at the fishing center that was very efficient. They also noted the time of year restrictions that would affect the dredging and asked that Mr. McKenzie provide updates if they decide to amend their project to dredge deeper.

VI. Research Projects for 2017

- J) Genetic analysis of the distinctiveness of Cobia, *Rachycentron canadum*, from Chesapeake Bay. Jan McDowell, VIMS. **\$89,681.**

Susanna Musick gave an overall opening to all three of the VIMS projects and described the PI's plans to work cooperatively on all three if funded. They hope to hold a stakeholder workshop to get all of the anglers, charter boat captains, and fishing community together so that no one gets asked multiple times for the same data.

Jan McDowell described the genetics research that was done for the last SEDAR and compared with the study comparing American fish with those from Taiwan. She noted some concerns about sample size and number of loci in those studies. She said that if funded, this study would look sample at spawning times (something the Taiwan study did not do), and that there would be more samples with more precise locations in Virginia. When asked about what this study could provide, she said that it would tell us where fish are spawning and when.

- K) Understanding the Virginia Cobia Stock through Analysis of Trophy Fish. Kevin Weng, VIMS. **\$63,249.00**

Kevin Weng presented the trophy fish project. He said that he planned to pull all of the recreational data available, with tagging, citations, MRIP, charter boat logs, etc. to determine if the maximum size has changed over time. He answered a lot of questions from the board about data collection, and clarified that they would not be doing any field components; they would be compiling the data already collected. Mr. Arey noted the major changes in fishing pressure and methods that have occurred over time with cobia, and suggested that they also factor in changes in water temperature over the last 40 years. Mr. Southall asked about pSAT tags and was told that Dr. Graves is interested in doing it, but was looking for other funding sources. There was also a discussion about acoustic tagging versus the satellite tags (both cost and function). The

board hoped that the pSAT tagging could also help the process if Dr. Graves could find alternate funding.

- L) Quantifying the Economic and Behavioral Effects of Alternative Regulatory Measures in Virginia's Recreational Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) Fishery. Andrew Scheld, VIMS. **\$103,986.00**

Willie Goldsmith presented the economic study (Andrew Sheld, the PI, was out of town). He clarified the kinds of questions and information that would be collected about recreational angler's choices (including preferences on management choices – for example, would an angler rather catch 6 fish and be able to keep 1 or none, or would the rather only catch 2 but be legally allowed to keep them). He emphasized that they would try to find ways to maximize the utility of the fishery. He also clarified the reporting process with the board because the economic study would need two years to complete. We noted that each year would need to be reviewed and voted on annually, and that interim and final reports would be required for each year.

After all three presentations, the board asked about what a final report would look like. Each project would need interim reports every three months and a final project report. Mr. Southall asked about an executive summary and press release from all three projects or an overall recommendation at the end. The researchers were agreeable to any of that, and it can be included in the contracts.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.