

MINUTES

Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting July 12, 2004

Members Present

George Hudgins
Edward Rhodes
Carolyn Brown
Charles Randolph
Jim Deibler
John Barr
Carlisle Bannister
Jesse Duell

Members Absent

Andy Ligon

At 7:10 pm, chairman Mr. George Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Mr. Chad Boyce announced that Dr. Cynthia Jones had contacted him to say that she would not be able to present her project tonight, Item E., since she is out of the country for a fisheries seminar. He further explained that she had submitted a request in writing to be able to present her project at the September meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Deibler to allow item E to be presented at the September public hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duell, and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Bannister discussed items B,C,D,E, and F. All of which were received after the June 15 deadline for application submittal. He made a motion to not consider these projects for funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barr. Mr. Duell asked if the Commission could approve a project that was not heard by the RFAB, Mr. Travelstead responded they could. Mr. Rhodes made a substitute motion to send items B,C,D and F to staff for review and for staff to report back to the RFAB with a recommendation. Mr. Deibler seconded the motion. Ms. Brown amended the motion to allow for item F to be presented tonight since it was a new project. The motion was amended and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Jane McCroskey gave the status of the fund. She said there was approximately \$360,000 dollars available for allocation, however she would expect the total to be approximately \$750,000 by November of 2004, assuming the license sales estimates are correct. Ms. McCroskey added that staff would like for the RFAB to ask project applicants to submit a revised application in the event the budget or scope if the project changes. The RFAB agreed.

Mr. Hudgins then asked for a review of the May 10, 2004 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Deibler made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Duell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal

- A. 2004 Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (Year 11), \$57,408.** Mr. Jon Lucy presented and updated the RFAB on the status of the VGFTP. He stated the program targeted 10-12 species of fish and then described the tagging procedures. He discussed several species of fish and interesting tag return data for each species.
- B. CCA Tidewater Youth Fishing Day 2005, \$6,000.**
- C. 2005 Challenger Little League Tournament Marine Science Educational Booths, \$800.**
- D. 2005 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 8), \$6,000.**
- E. How Seagrass Beds support Healthy Fish Growth: a study of trophic structure in Chesapeake Bay using stable isotopes (Final year), \$70,169.** Deferred until September meeting.
- F. CCA VA Grayson Rodgers Memorial Youth Fishing Day 2005, \$595.** Richard Welton presented this project and stated the CCA would support the RFAB decision not to allow the late projects to be presented, but he felt that item E should not be able to be heard as well. He then reminded the RFAB that Grayson Rodgers served on the RFAB before he passed away. He stated the fishing is done from shore at Cape Charles. Mr. Rhodes asked why the rod and reel costs varied for all the CCA tournaments. Mr. Welton responded that it was the type of rods used, some liked the open faced, others are closed faced.
- G. St. Jude "Fishing for a Cure" Portion of the Little Creek Regatta, \$600.** Bill Roach presented the project on behalf of Di Ricks. He stated that on August 5-6, 3 events will be held to raise money for the St. Jude Childrens Hospital. The fishing will be held on the Lynnhaven Pier and a "celebration" to be held at Bayshore Marina afterwards. He stated the RFAB money would be used to purchase rods, reels and bait for the children's fishing day. Mr. Rhodes asked about the ABC license on the budget, and where the alcohol will be as related to the kids. Mr. Roach responded the alcohol is for the celebration after the fishing day and will be 10 miles away at the Bayshore Marina. Mr. Barr asked if this was a fundraiser for the hospital. Mr. Roach replied, yes, as well as to stimulate children's fishing.
- H. Smith Landing Waterfront Improvements, \$215,767.** Cheryl Sonderman presented the project on behalf of York County Parks and Recreation. She stated that in May of 2004, the Commission approved \$310,000 for the construction of the boat ramps and finger piers. Now, they are requesting funds for the new fishing pier and parking lot improvements. They propose to lengthen and widen the fishing pier and to install new light poles for the parking lot. The new fishing pier will be ADA compliant. Mr. Rhodes asked on the status of the ramps. Ms. Sonderman replied that the bids would go out in August. Ms. Brown asked about

the other public ramps in York County and also, how deep the water would be at the end of the new pier. Ms. Sonderman replied the water is about six feet deep at mean high water. Mr. Bannister asked if any neighbors would object to the additional lighting. Ms. Sonderman responded that no complaints had been received.

- I. Impact of Mycobacteriosis on the Striped Bass Recreational Fishery in Chesapeake Bay, \$98,300.** Dr. John Hoenig presented the project to the RFAB. He stated the purpose of the study was to see what happens to striped bass that are infected with mycobacteriosis, whether they recover or die. He added that VIMS wants to see if these fish can recover from the infection, or if it is a fatal disease. The outcome of this project would have serious effects on the AFMFC management plan. He discussed the details of the project. A holding pen would need to be custom made to hold 40-50 striped bass from 18" to 22" long. Both infected and non-infected fish would be held in the pen until water temperatures drop in the fall. The fish would then be removed and examined for disease prevalence. Throughout the project, the fish would be removed and photographed to map the progression of the lesions. Questions were asked about the possibility of getting a cheaper version of the holding pen, and the various costs on the budget. Discussion followed and is available on the verbatim record. Ms. Brown asked if this would be a multi-year study, to which Dr. Hoenig responded that he hoped it would be a two-year project.
- J. The value of seagrass habitats to the ecosystem in Chesapeake Bay, \$58,221.** Rob Latour gave the presentation. He briefed the RFAB on the project and its purpose. He stated the purpose of the study is to sample seagrass beds using trammel nets. The data collected would be used in developing a multi-species model of the biomass of a seagrass bed. Mr. Rhodes asked about other funding sources. Dr. Latour responded that he had received partial funding from NOAA, but was seeking to expand the scope of the project. He also added this project would compliment Dr. Cynthia Jones' work on seagrass beds. Dr. Latour agreed to clarify his budget and submit it to staff before the next RFAB meeting.
- K. Additional Funding Support for Messick Point Boat Ramps and Parking, \$200,310.58.** John Gill gave the presentation. He started by thanking the RFAB for their support in the construction of the new ramps. He stated the project is progressing, however, there is a budget shortfall for the construction of the overflow parking lot. He sighted poor soil condition, high asphalt prices, surplus of marine contracting work, and the age of the original bid as reasons for the shortfall. Mr. Barr asked for a revised budget to reflect the numbers he was presenting to the RFAB. Mr. Randolph asked if the city was ever planning to charge a fee for the ramp. Mr. Gill responded no. Mr. Gill added that the city was planning to build a pier with slips for temporary/short term docking. Discussion followed on the problems with allowing for short term docking and having to enforce the policy.

Mr. Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 9:40 pm.