

FINAL MINUTES

Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting

November 13, 2006

Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman	
Edward Rhodes - Vice-Chairman	Jim Deibler
Carlisle Bannister	Jesse "Jimmie" Duell
John Barr	Charles Randolph
Carolyn Brown	Charles Southall

The RFAB Work Session was held from 5:30 p.m. until 7:10 p.m. These minutes are from the Final Meeting of this project cycle.

At 7:15 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Sonya Davis stated that \$2.2 million is the estimated amount of revenue to be accumulated by the end of December 2006.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft September 2006 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.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal.

- A) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds FY 2007. Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$225,000.** Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 9-0.

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

- B) 2007 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 10). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association. **\$6,000.**

- C) 2007 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 6). W. Brown, A. Nogiec, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,000.**

- D) 2007 CCA Tidewater Youth Fishing Day (Year 10). T. Johnson, D. Hickman, B. Dieffenbach, Coastal Conservation Association, Tidewater Chapter. **\$6,000.**

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

- E) Sheepshead Population Dynamics in Chesapeake Bay, Virginia (Year 2). H. Liao, S. Haga, C. Jones, ODURF/CQFE. **\$65,777**. Mr. Southall made a motion to approve the funding with the following stipulation: the investigators will provide recommendations for fisheries management relative to the sheepshead population, following the conclusion of this 2nd year study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barr. The vote passed 7-2.
- F) Artificial Reef, Funding for Deployment of Structure 2006-2007. Mike Meier, VMRC. **\$200,000**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Ms. Brown. The vote passed 9-0.
- G) 2007 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 13). J. Lucy, VIMS and C. Bain, VMRC. **\$64,787**. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 9-0.

New Projects.

- H) Ocean View Recreational Fishing and Education Pier. Stanley Stein, Assistant City Manager, Norfolk. **\$215,850**. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Barr. The vote passed 9-0.
- I) Monitoring Mycobacteriosis in Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass, *Morone saxatilis*: Tracking the State of the Epizootic. D. Gauthier, W. Vogelbein, K. Reece, VIMS. **\$59,312**. Mr. Bannister made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 9-0.
- J) Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) as essential fish habitat in lower Chesapeake Bay: Linking variation in SAV, forage animal production, and sportfish abundance. J. E. Duffy, R. Latour, J. van Montfrans, VIMS. **\$69,268**. Mr. Barr made a motion to deny the funding and was seconded by Mr. Deibler. The vote passed 9-0.
- K) A Genetic Assessment of the Potential for Local Depletion of Atlantic Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) within Chesapeake Bay. J. Graves, J. McDowell, R. Latour, A. Lynch, VIMS. **\$57,172**. Mr. Southall made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Duell. The vote passed 8-1.
- L) Utility of Alternative Reefs to Simultaneously Enhance Recreational Fish Production and Oyster Restoration. Rom Lipcius, VIMS. ~~\$199,643~~ (- \$43,572) **\$156,071***. Mr. Bannister expressed a concern with the purchase of video equipment for \$28,000. Dr. Rom Lipcius offered two options. One option was to include the video equipment in the project proposal and he would attempt to find another funding source. The second option was to lease the video equipment, which should be less expensive. Dr. Lipcius did not have the exact cost of leasing the equipment at this time. Mr. Duell made a motion to remove \$28,000 for video equipment from the budget, and approve a modified amount of \$128,071. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barr. The vote passed 9-0.
- M) Prey Availability and Enhanced Production of Artificial Reefs for Recreational Fish and Native Oysters. Rochelle Seitz, VIMS. ~~\$45,944~~ (+ \$18,486) **\$64,430***.
* Sharing resources between Items L & M will result in an overall reduction of \$25,086.

Mr. Southall made a motion to approve the funding and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The vote passed 9-0.

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 \$148,125, totaling **\$318,375**. Mr. Randolph asked if the City of Newport News had considered adding lighting to the fishing pier. Mr. Randolph believed this deep water location would provide good striped bass fishing for recreational anglers, if they were allowed to fish at night. Mr. Nealer said that lighting was not included in the original 2004 project, so the bids received from contractors on the new 2006 proposal do not include lighting. Mr. Nealer also mentioned that sunrise to sunset are the normal hours of operation, for similar facilities around the City. However, if the public wants night fishing at this location, he could research the costs associated with lighting. Mr. Nealer also needs to determine if the City is willing to support the additional cost of lighting and is willing to support the extended hours of operation, at this location. Mr. Barr asked if the RFAB was required to hold a public hearing, for an increase this significant. Mr. Travelstead responded that in cases of large increases, with past projects, the public was given an opportunity to provide comment. However, the Board could recommend the project to the Commission and ask the Commission to accept public comment at the November 28, 2006, Commission meeting.

Another alternative would be to advertise a public comment period on this proposal, for the January 8, 2007 RFAB meeting, and provide a recommendation at the January 23, 2007 Commission meeting. This project proposal would not have to go through an entire 6-month review cycle, unless the Board chooses to do so. (During the Work Session, Ms. Davis reminded the Board that one public comment, supporting the increase, had already been received.) Mr. Mohammad Sharbазhery, Newport News Engineering Department, informed the Board that the bids received on the new 2006 proposal would expire this week. Mr. Sharbазhery was informed that this was an advisory board and the Commission has final funding authority. The current bids would expire before the next Commission meeting on November 28. Mr. Sharbазhery said that they may be able to work with the low-bid contractor and extend the bid another 10 days, if the RFAB would recommend the project to the Commission for the requested funding. The Board can expect the cost of the current proposal to increase a couple hundred thousand dollars, if delayed until January, even without the additional cost of lighting. Mr. Sharbазhery suggested maybe a two phase process, with Phase I approving the current proposal and funding this month and Phase II to include lighting at a later time.

Mr. Randolph made a motion to table the entire project proposal until the January 8, 2007 RFAB meeting. Mr. Randolph also included in his motion the request of the City to provide information on the cost of adding lighting and that a public hearing would be held at the January meeting on this one project. Mr. Southall seconded the motion, and the vote was 9-0 to approve the motion. The RFAB members do realize the cost of the current proposal may increase in the next 8-10 weeks. The RFAB requested the City to provide the cost of the current proposal and a cost estimate of lighting, separately, in January.

The dates and times for the first cycle 2007 RFAB meetings are as follows:

Applicants (7 p.m.)	-	January 8
Public Hearing (7 p.m.)	-	March 12
Review Session (5:30 p.m.) & Final Recommendations (7 p.m.)	-	May 14

Chairman Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.