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**Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board**  
**Virginia Marine Resources Commission**  
**2016 Cycle 2 Voting Meeting**  
**Monday, November 14, 2016**

**Board Members Present**

Sheldon Arey  
Carolyn Brown  
John Crowling  
Randy Pack  
Charles Randolph  
Ed Rhodes  
Charles Southall

**Staff Present**

Jane McCroskey  
Joe Cimino  
Alicia Nelson  
Lewis Gillingham  
Debbie Corker  
Terri Short

**Board Members Absent**

J. T. Holland  
Jack Miller

**Others Present**

Greg Brown  
Charlie Clarkson  
Joe Stephenson  
George Reich  
Rob Cowling  
Susanna Musick  
Dan Crear  
Bob Burstein  
George Gabriel  
Stuart McKenzie  
Andrew Scheld  
Jan McDowell  
Cody McKenley

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

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

There were no announcements.

II. Status of Fund.

Ms. McCroskey gave an update on the fund and noted that currently, \$2,134,442 is projected to be available for projects. She also noted the 5% budget reduction. The board clarified that there was approximately 2.4 million in annual revenue and that 2 million were set aside for agency obligations that support different activities in the agency, due to budget cuts. Ms. McCroskey noted that the recent budget cut placed one additional obligation on the fund of \$32,000 per year. The other changes in the budget cut changed the use of the funds but did not add to the level of existing obligations. She also noted that some of the balance on the fund was due to 1-time windfalls and that we are able to keep the interest on the fund.

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

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

IV. Fishing event applications for 2017

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Mr. Randolph motioned to vote and recommend funding for the fishing event applications (projects A through H) as a block, the motion was seconded by Mr. Southall. The motion passed unanimously.

- A) 2017 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day (Year 30). Greg Brown, **\$7,510.**
- B) 2017 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. Joseph Stephenson; George Reich, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$3,825.**
- C) 2017 Saxis and Morley's Wharf Children's Fishing and Conservation Educational Outings. Fred Chemi, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,100.**
- D) 2017 Virginia Beach Anglers Club/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip. Robert Burstein, Virginia Beach Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**
- E) 2017 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. James "Ike" Eisenhower, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,200.**
- F) 2017 Children's Fishing Clinic. Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$7,500.**
- G) 2017 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$7,500.**
- H) 2017 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club/Sunshine Program. **\$11,550.**

V. Access Projects for 2017

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

Mr. Randolph motioned to recommend funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pack, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Southall motioned to rescind the approval for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown, and the motion passed unanimously. The board asked that any contract with the County include language that the depth must be maintained at four feet, with reports filed annually with the VMRC.

Mr. Randolph clarified how the depth would be certified, and the board discussed how the depth would be verified.

The board reviewed the checklist with the county representative, Mr. McKenzie. The checklist items were recorded by Alicia Nelson. An extra item was added to the grant provision checklist that the county would make the best attempt to maintain the four foot depth.

Mr. Southall motioned to recommend funding the proposal as amended, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.

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### VI. Research Projects for 2017

Mr. Randolph motioned to recommend projects J and L as a block. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown. Mr. Southall commented that project K would be voted on separately. The motion passed unanimously.

- J) Genetic analysis of the distinctiveness of Cobia, *Rachycentron canadum*, from Chesapeake Bay. John Graves and Jan McDowell, VIMS. **\$135,931.**
- K) Understanding the Virginia Cobia Stock through Analysis of Trophy Fish. Kevin Weng, VIMS. **\$63,249.00**
- 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**

The board discussed the item with Dan Crear (Kevin Weng's student). Mr. Pack asked Mr. Crear to respond to one reviewer comment that these analyses could potentially be done at no cost to the agency through the ASMFC process. Mr. Crear's comments were that VIMS resources would not be used to contact the fishing clubs and to work with the data. Mr. Southall noted that this process was more empirical than others and that it appeared that there was some criticism that the project would not be a good investment because the work could be obtained at no cost from another source.

Susanna Musick and Mr. Crear responded to several of the peer review comments about sample size – noting that sample size may not be as important as the type of comparisons made, and both noted that they would not know the amount of data that is available to collect from anglers until the project began.

Mr. Arey asked about what data was already available online – the tagging and citation data are all available, and Mr. Randolph asked if individual angler log books would be perceived as less reliable than tagging or citation data. Mr. Crear noted that only data with total length would be included, and Mr. Southall noted anglers individually collected all of that data, regardless of how it was reported.

Mr. Randolph motioned to recommend funding item K, and Mr. Southall seconded the motion. There was a lot of discussion and motion amendments concerning an earlier RFAB request that VIMS provide an overall executive summary, in layman's terms, of all the projects and that the board would like to receive the draft summary for comments prior to submission. The board also wanted to include that all future research projects should include an executive summary for the public. The amended motion to approve item K (with the executive summary) was passed with 5 in favor and 2, Mr. Pack and Mr. Crowling, against. The board decided to handle the request for an executive summary for all future items administratively as a requirement for future final reports.

The next meeting will be held May 8<sup>th</sup>, and applications for the 2017 cycle will be due on April 17, 2017. Before adjourning, the board thanked Jane McCroskey for all she has done with the board in light of her planned retirement before the next meeting.