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Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2017 Public Hearing
Monday, July 10, 2017

Board Members Present

Sheldon Arey
Carolyn Brown
J. T. Holland
Randy Pack
Meriwether Payne
Charles Randolph
Ed Rhodes
Charles Southall

Staff Present

Jane McCroskey
Terri Short
Debbie Corker
Lewis Gillingham
Alicia Nelson
Matt Hull

Board Members Absent

Jack Miller

Others Present

Carter Williams
Bonnie Fitz
Brian Fuller
Denny Dobbins
Charles Clarkson
Greg Brown
Fred Smith
Jamie Weist
George Reich
Michael Anderson
David Anderson
Robert Burstein
Andrew Scheld

Minutes were recorded by Alicia Nelson.

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

Alicia Nelson introduced Matt Hull, a new employee for the agency that was available for help with contracts and legal questions.

II. Status of Fund.

Terri Short provided the status of the fund. She noted that there was \$727,247 available to obligate for projects at that time.

III. Review of Minutes from the May 2017 RFAB Meeting.

Mr. Pack motioned to approve the minutes from the May 2017 RFAB meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Southall. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Fishing event applications for 2018 events:

A) 2018 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day (Year 30). Greg Brown, **\$7,500.**

Mr. Clarkson presented information about the annual Kid's Fishing Day. He noted that the 2017 event would be held on August 2nd, and that 200 children were expected.

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- B) 2018 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. Joseph Stephenson; George Reich, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$3,825.**

George Reich provided updates for the GBFA's event. He said that there were 102 participants at the pier event this year, and that the boat event would be in September.

- C) 2018 Saxis and Morley's Wharf Children's Fishing and Conservation Educational Outings. Fred Chemi, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,100.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- D) 2018 Virginia Beach Anglers Club/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip. Robert Burstein, Virginia Beach Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**

David Anderson was available for any questions on this item and noted that this was the 5th year of the event.

- E) 2018 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. James "Ike" Eisenhower, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,200.**

Mr. Eisenhower noted that the 2017 trip was scheduled for August 7th.

- F) 2018 Children's Fishing Clinic. Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$7,500.**

Items F and G were presented together. Cody Henley and Rob Cowling were available to discuss the item, and provided an update on the plans for the 2017 events.

- G) 2018 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$7,500.**

Item G was presented with item F (above).

- H) 2018 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club/Sunshine Program. **\$9,900.**

There were no public comments on this item.

V. Access Projects

- I) Wormley Creek Waterfront Improvements-Amended. Bonnie Fitz, York County. **\$161,321.**

Ms. Bonnie Fitz gave an updated presentation about Wormley Creek and the planned improvements to the fishing pier, kayak launch, and parking lot. She presented an amended request that reduced the overall budget request to \$161,321, altered the construction plans, and separated the budget into the kayak launch and fishing pier. She noted that this location provided the only direct access to the York River due to a lack of dredging at a nearby site. She also described the easy dock loading system that was

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planned for the ADA accessible kayak launch. Board members asked the county representatives to prioritize each portion of the project from a county perspective.

Brian Fuller, director of community service for York County also spoke about the project. He noted that \$85,000 was available from the county to put towards the project, and noted that by eliminating a boat tax, they expected more boaters to use the site. He also noted that this site connected the blue ways trails to the John Smith waterways for kayakers.

The board thanked the representatives for the thorough research and presentation (available) and asked them to return a priorities list to the board.

- J) Clontz Park Boat Ramp-Additional Funding Request. Peter Stephenson, Town of Smithfield-Amended. **\$317,185.**

Jamie Weist, Mayor Carter Williams, and Amy Music (Director of Parks and Recreation for Smithfield) gave an update on an amended request from the Town of Smithfield. The cost of the request has been reduced to \$317,185, and it was noted that the town is contributing \$76,000 in engineering costs and storm water management credits.

The town representatives provided a video of a flyover of the Pagan River at the proposed launch site and down river past the other recreational opportunities at adjacent parks and access to the James River. They noted that the has existing assets valued over \$314,000 in the existing fishing pier at Clontz Park and the fishing pier and kayak launch at Windsor Castle Park. They also described the search for other funding sources and that they would be meeting with Senator Norment this fall and attending the Virginia Port Authority meeting on July 20.

Mr. Southall asked the board to itemize their costs and priorities for the board and asked for insight on precast construction techniques versus the coffer dam planned. Mr. Holland emphasized the need for the town to sharpen their pencils on the budget and asked them to spate their parking and the marine construction for a new bid in hopes that specialists in each would give provide better estimates.

The board asked that both access projects provide clear priorities and itemized budgets a few weeks prior to the next RFAB meeting.

VI. Research Projects

- K) Marine Sportfish Collection Project, Year 11, Adam Kenyon, VMRC. **\$12,000.**

There were no public comments on this item

- L) Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 25). S. Musick (VIMS), L. Gillingham (VMRC). **\$82,971.**

Lewis Gillingham was available for comments and passed out copies of the 2016 annual report. He also clarified what was available on the website.

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- M) *Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay (Yr 15). M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. \$46,960. (**\$22,650 from VSRFDF, and \$22,650 from MFIF**)

There were no public comments on this item.

- N) Federal Assistance (Sportfish Restoration) Matching Funds, Federal FY 2018. R. O'Reilly, VMRC. **\$236,828.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- O) Quantifying the Economic and Behavioral Effects of Alternative Regulatory Measures in Virginia's Recreational Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) Fishery (Year 2). Andrew Scheld, VIMS. **\$44,864.**

The board noted the recent cost savings for year one of this project. There were no public comments on this item.

VII. Tentative Dates for Future RFAB meetings:

The next RFAB meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.