

MINUTES

Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting

September 13, 2004

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Carolyn Brown

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

Mr. Hudgins welcomed the most recent RFAB member, Mr. Charles Southall of Poquoson. Mr. Chad Boyce announced the CCA had contacted him to say that Item F. would no longer be referred to as the “Grayson Rodgers Memorial Youth Fishing Day”. It would now be called the “CCA VA Cape Charles Youth Fishing Day”.

Ms. Jane McCroskey gave the status of the fund. She said there was approximately \$446,000 dollars available for allocation for this cycle.

Mr. Hudgins then asked for a review of the July 12, 2004 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Barr seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Public Comment on the Multi-Year Projects for Renewal

- A. **2004 Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (Year 11), \$57,408.** Mr. Randolph asked Mr. Bain if a program had been set up to train new taggers for this year. Mr. Bain responded, not yet, but it was being planned for early February of 2005. No other comments.
- B. **CCA Tidewater Youth Fishing Day 2005, \$6,000.** Mr. Diebler asked if the CCA was getting a reduced cost on the Lynnhaven fishing pier. Mr. Jim Haydon responded, yes, as part of the in-kind contributions.
- C. **2005 Challenger Little League Tournament Marine Science Educational Booths, \$800.** No comment.
- D. **2005 Children’s Fishing Clinic (Year 8), \$6,000.** No comment.

- E. How Seagrass Beds support Healthy Fish Growth: a study of trophic structure in Chesapeake Bay using stable isotopes (Final year), \$70,169.** Dr. Cynthia Jones presented her work that was completed in the first RFAB grant approved for this project. She described the various isotope signatures that were found in the fish otoliths. She also showed the RFAB how the natal areas of a particular fish could be mapped by using the chemicals found in the otoliths. She explained how Odu had sought other funding from VA Sea Grant. She also explained how the lack of speckled trout samples in the fall of 03 affected her study. She concluded by informing the RFAB that menhaden would be added to the list of fish to be sampled and she would be able to graph the isotope levels in menhaden as well. Discussion followed on her project. Mr. Barr asked for clarification on the indirect costs for ODU.
- F. CCA VA Grayson Rodgers Memorial Youth Fishing Day 2005, \$595.** The name of Grayson Rodgers was removed from this project. No comments.
- G. St. Jude “Fishing for a Cure” Portion of the Little Creek Regatta, \$600.** No comments.
- H. Smith Landing Waterfront Improvements, \$215,767.** Larry Snyder of CCA voiced partial support of the project, saying that the CCA preferred for the project to be deferred until the next funding cycle when more money would be available for larger projects. Jack Christie, chairman of the Citizen Advisory Board for York County, voiced support for the project. Mr. Southall asked about the feasibility of doing the work in phases. Tom Sheppard of York County responded that it would be cheaper to do the work all one time when all the equipment is available.
- 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 that Sea Grant was going to allocate funds to buy a second holding pen, now having one for the experimental and one for the control group of fishes. Some items were removed and the budget had been amended. The new budget was now \$84,800. Mr. Deibler stated the he had contacted Rappahannock Supply and found netting for approximately \$1,300. Dr. Hoenig responded that the holding pen needed to be able to be worked easily and effectively. Discussion followed on this topic. Dr. Hoenig then stated that VIMS holding pen was modeled after the MD DNR pen. Mr. Bannister asked if the RFAB could see pictures of the pen. Mr. Randolph asked Dr. Vogelbein about the spread of mycobacteriosis from one fish to another and how would you know if the fish were naturally infected or if other infected fish spread the disease. Dr. Hoenig responded that no one knows how the disease is spread. Discussion followed on the potential impacts to human health. Larry Snyder of the CCA voiced support for the project, but expressed concerns over the costs. He suggested for commercial monies to assist in the funding.

- J. The value of seagrass habitats to the ecosystem in Chesapeake Bay, \$58,221.** Rob Latour briefed the RFAB on the peer review of the project. He added that prey collections will be addressed in the project, as suggested by the reviewer. He also added this project would work cooperatively with Dr. Cynthia Jones' work on seagrass beds. Dr. Jones expressed support for the project. Larry Snyder of CCA did not support the project due to its practicality of providing useful data to VMRC. Dr. Jones added that she would be willing to present her work to a large forum of anglers.
- K. Additional Funding Support for Messick Point Boat Ramps and Parking, \$200,310.58.** John Gill started by thanking the RFAB for their support in the construction of the new ramps. He handed out a written response to the RFAB's questions from the last meeting. Mr. Rhodes asked about the commercial activity at the ramp and if it was being enforced by the city. Mr. Gill responded that the enforcement would not begin until the watermen had an alternate site to store their gear. He cited poor soil conditions, high asphalt prices, surplus of marine contracting work, and the age of the original bid as reasons for the shortfall. Discussion followed on the problems with enforcement of the storage of commercial gear on site. Mr. Jeff Wingham, City Engineer, addressed the RFAB and spoke about the specifics of the construction and planning. Tom Powers stated that he supported the project, and emphasized that the commercial gear storage is a problem.

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.