

**Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2013 Cycle 1 Final Recommendations Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2013**

Board Members Present

George Hudgins
Ed Rhodes
Carlisle Bannister
Jim Deibler
Jimmie Duell
Charles Randolph
Ken Schultz
Charles Southall

Staff Present

Rob O'Reilly
Jane McCroskey
Joe Cimino
Lewis Gillingham
Mike Meier
Alicia Nelson
Sharon Wilson

Board Members Absent

Carolyn Brown

Others Present

Jeb Wilson
Bob Pride
Denny Dobbins
Greg Brown
Bob Orth
Joe Stephenson
Jerry Kenney

The minutes were prepared by Joe Cimino and Alicia Nelson.

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mr. Hudgins.

II. Status of Fund

Ms. McCroskey said that there was roughly \$1.4 million available in the VSRFDF for projects, at this time. She updated the board on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries audit and history of payments between the agencies. She said that the 1992 General Assembly established that the VMRC work with DGIF to administer our recreational licenses and pay them to use their sales network. They sent bills in subsequent years and were paid. At one point, the DGIF stopped billing the VMRC. At this time, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in progress with DGIF to pay them for selling saltwater recreational licenses. The initial request was for \$155,000 per year

Mr. Rhodes asked if we could tell how many saltwater licenses will need to be sold to make \$155,000. He also asked if DGIF pays the other locations that sell licenses (DMV, Walmart, BassPro).

Board members and Ms. McCroskey discussed the internal costs for DGIF to sell licenses per person, over the phone, and online, as well as if the DGIF had to hire additional staff to cover selling the saltwater licenses. Board members asked for additional information at the next work session. They considered the total amount of funds generated from the license sales and if the cost of the licenses needed to be raised.

Ms. McCroskey also requested funding for a yearly set aside for telephone portion of the Virginia Fishermen Identification Program. She said that a grant from the VSRFDF and a 1-time grant from the ASMFC funded the first few years of the program. However, now we have a figure for the annual cost for the telephone portion of the program based on the current contractor VIPNET. The VIPNET contract runs out in August of 2013, and a new contractor will need to take over the telephone registration process. She said that the VMRC has been working with the Department of the Blind and the Visually Impaired, and will go through the bid process if they are not able to contract with us. Ms. McCroskey shared the average call volume and duration.

Mr. Schultz said that the cost was approximately \$4 per registrant (based on \$1 per minute). He asked when callers hear about how to register online, and Ms. McCroskey said that it was at the beginning of the call, before the contractor got on the line. He also asked what was required for registration, and Ms. McCroskey said that she believed some states only do a mail-in or online registration.

Mr. Duell, suggested continuing the phone registration for one additional year, then making individuals use the online registration.

Mr. Hudgins asked about the ratio of FIP participants compared to those that buy a license. Ms. McCroskey answered that in 2012, there were over 65,000 FIP registrants and 120,000 licenses sold. Mr. O'Reilly said that the best we can do, at this time, is to promote the online registration on the phone recording.

Ms. McCroskey said that she hoped the \$75,000 price would come down, but that it is the best estimate for the phone portion of the program, at this time.

Mr. Rhodes motioned to approve the expenditure, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Review of Minutes from March 2013 RFAB Meeting

Mr. Rhodes gave a few corrections, and the minutes were accepted as amended

IV. Multi-Year Projects for 2013 Renewal

Mr. Rhodes moved to accept the recommendations on items A through F (below) as a block. Mr. Randolph seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- A. 2013 Chincoteague Island Charter Boat Association “TAKE A KID FISHING DAY.” Charlie Koski, Chincoteague Island Charter Boat Association: \$2,088.65**
- B. 2013 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day (Year 26). Greg Brown, \$7,437.80.**
- C. 2013 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and clinics. Joseph Stephenson; Paul Anderson, Great Bridge Fisherman’s Association. \$5,350**
- D. 2013 Youth Developmental “Hooked on Fishing” Adventure (year 6). Bob Hewlett, Bob Pride, Virginia Charter Boat Association. \$12,960.**
- E. 2013 Saxis and Morley’s Wharf Fishing Piers Youth Fishing Tournaments (Year 12). Allen Evans, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. \$2,000**
- F. 2013 Sunshine Children’s Fishing Program (Year 11). Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Angler Club/ Sunshine Program. \$7,725.**
- G. *Item G was withdrawn by the applicant**

V. Research Projects for 2013.

- H. Restoration of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat in Chesapeake Bay and the Virginia Coastal Bays. Robert Orth, VIMS. \$148,286**

Mr. Randolph moved to approve the project, and it was seconded by Mr. Southall. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Southall said that the Board appreciated Dr. Orth’s thoroughness at finding other funding sources and for keeping RFAB informed. Dr. Orth said that he was still looking for other funds.

Dr. Orth also mentioned that the waterfowl (brant) have been feeding in large numbers in the eel grass beds. He said that it provides an example of the ecosystem services that the beds provide.

Mr. Rhodes asked Dr. Orth to comment on a recently published article about the reduction in grasses. Dr. Orth explained that those articles are describing the Chesapeake Bay. He said that what is happening on the seaside (the location of his study) is very different. He said that the seaside beds have been used by people from other countries as a success story. He invited anyone from the board to come out and collect seeds.

VI. Tentative Dates for Future 2013 RFAB Meetings (Second Cycle)

June 15 – Second Cycle Project Applications Due

July 8 – Public presentations by the Applicants (7:00 p.m.)

September 9 – Public Hearing (7:00 p.m.)

November 18 – Work Session (5:30 p.m.) and Recommendations (7:00 p.m.)

Other Comments:

Mr. Jeb Wilson, of Accomack County, representing the Greenbackville Harbor Enhancement Project (2013), spoke with the board about the contract wording. There was a concern about the grant conditions listed in the contract that the site must be reserved for recreational activities only. There is also commercial activity in the area with a shared parking lot. Mr. Wilson said that he did not want to cut out the commercial watermen using the site, even though majority of the use is recreational. He said that the county was planning a 50-50 designation for recreational parking versus commercial parking.

Mr. Randolph said that in general, recreational anglers would be trailering boats and felt that it would be better to have a separate area.

Mr. Wilson said that parking has never been an issue at the site, and that they are considering designating an area for recreational parking only.

Mr. Rhodes asked if the county could provide diagrams of the parking proposal, and Mr. Wilson answered that they could. Mr. Hudgins mentioned that they would like to know the exact number of spaces as well. Mr. Southall that the board could act at July 8th meeting

The meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.