

**Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2016 Cycle 2 Public Hearing
Monday, September 12, 2016**

Board Members Present

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

Staff Present

Jane McCroskey
Alicia Nelson
Lewis Gillingham
Debbie Corker
Terri Short

Board Members Absent

J. T. Holland
Jack Miller
Charles Randolph

Others Present

Robert Burstein
John Graves
Greg Brown
Denny Dobbins
Rob Cowling
Susanna Musick
Andrew Scheld
Stuart McKenzie
Jan McDowell
Wes Blow

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

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

There were no announcements, and Jane gave the status update for the fund (about 1.3 million available for projects). The board approved a \$2,000 increase (one time) to the RFAB travel fund. The minutes were reviewed and accepted.

II. Status of Fund.

Ms. McCroskey gave the status update for the fund (about 1.3 million available for projects). The board approved a \$2,000 increase (one time) to the RFAB travel fund (the motion was made by Mr. Southall, and seconded by Ms. Brown.

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

Mr. Crowling motioned to approve the minutes from the July, 2016 RFAB meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pack. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. SAV update from Dr. Orth

Dr. Orth gave a presentation and update on his SAV work and thanked the board for supporting his work. The board commended Dr. Orth for his work with sea grasses and his careful use of the funds.

V. Fishing event applications for 2017

A) 2017 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day (Year 30). Greg Brown, **\$7,510**.

There were no comments specifically pertaining to this item.

- B) 2017 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. Joseph Stephenson; George Reich, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$3,825.**

There were no comments specifically pertaining to this item.

- C) 2017 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 comments specifically pertaining to this item.

- D) 2017 Virginia Beach Anglers Club/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip. Robert Burstein, Virginia Beach Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**

There were no comments specifically pertaining to this item.

- E) 2017 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. James "Ike" Eisenhower, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,200.**

Mr. Dobbins noted that it was a very good event.

- F) 2017 Children's Fishing Clinic. Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$7,500.**

Mr. Cowling gave a brief overview of the 2016 event which was recently completed. He described the bad weather and destruction of the tent, but that 207 kids were able to attend and enjoy the event.

- G) 2017 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$7,500.**

There were no comments specifically pertaining to this item.

- H) 2017 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club/Sunshine Program. **\$11,550.**

Mr. Dobbins explained that over 600 kids participated thus far in the 2016 events. He noted that they also had support from Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Dominion power. He noted that they were going to expand to an event at Lincoln King Park as well.

VI. Access Projects for 2017

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

Stuart McKenzie came to represent Northumberland County and explained the modification in their request to dredge to 4 ft. mean low water instead of 3. The board accepted the changes.

VII. Research Projects for 2017

- J) Genetic analysis of the distinctiveness of Cobia, *Rachycentron canadum*, from Chesapeake Bay. John Graves and Jan McDowell, VIMS. **\$135,931.**

Dr. Graves spoke about his additions to the project. He has tags that were rebuilt or left over from other projects and those were deployed this August. He is requesting funding for 10 additional PSAT tags (\$4,000 each, plus \$500 each for satellite time). His portion of the project doesn't require salary or student time because his student is on the GI bill. He said that they would get overwintering information and the timing of the movement and track down the coast. He also noted that they could receive information on any post-release mortality (although that is expected to be low).

The board requested that an executive summary from all investigators be made in addition to individual project reports for each portion, with the RFAB having 30 days to review it before it was final. Dr. Graves agreed.

- K) Understanding the Virginia Cobia Stock through Analysis of Trophy Fish. Kevin Weng, VIMS. **\$63,249.00**

Items J, K, and L were commented on as a group (below)

- 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**

Items J, K, and L were commented on as a group (below)

Wes Blow gave comments about how this data was critically important for the SAFMC and that there would be a stock assessment in 2018 for cobia. He said that council members have told him that any additional data would be useful. He felt like this is a good opportunity for those who paid into the fund to provide good information to help the fishery. Mr. Blow was also frustrated at the lack of attendance from other anglers at the meeting because he felt that this issue was so important. Mr. Southall clarified that Mr. Blow's comments were from him individually, and that the PSWSFA had sent in written comments strongly in support of the cobia (and also in support of the fishing events and Northumberland dredging project).

Mr. Dobbins (who was there to represent the Portsmouth Angler's Club project) also made comments about the importance of cobia research and asked the VIMS researchers to be expedient in their reporting so that the data could be used for management.

Dr. Graves and the board discussed the timing of reporting and when the data may be available. Dr. Graves said that he could provide preliminary data to the management boards (but clarified that only final data would be released publically).

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.