

Meeting Minutes

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Monday, September 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
Applicant Presentation Meeting

Members Present

Sheldon Arey
J. T. Holland
Wayne Jessie Sr.
Meriwether Payne
Randy Pack
Charles Randolph
Ed Rhodes

Staff Present

Sheri Crocker
Terri Short
Pat Geer
Ethan Simpson
Lewis Gillingham
Alicia Nelson

Board Members Absent

Maggie Whittemore
Charles Southall

Others Present

David Anderson
Rob Cowling
Denny Dobbins
Ike Eisenhower
Mary Fabrizio
Karen Lewis
Jim McCaddin
Susanna Musick

The minutes were recorded by Alicia Nelson; an audio recording of the meeting is available.

Agenda:

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

Alicia Nelson noted that applications for the 2020 cycle will be due by April 15, 2020. She also noted that the Commission would hear the RFAB funding items for final approval in October, rather than September due to a full September meeting agenda.

II. Status of Fund.

Sherry Crocker gave an overview of the funding levels in the VSRFDF. She noted that there was \$1,207,408 available for projects.

III. Review of Minutes from the July 2019 RFAB Meeting.

Mr. Arey motioned to approve the minutes from the July 2019 meeting. Mr. Randolph seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Fishing event applications for 2020 events:

A) 2020 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day. Jim McCaddin, **\$7,510.**

B) 2020 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. Joseph Stephenson; George Reich, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$2,932.**

- C) 2020 Virginia Beach Anglers Club/Seton Youth Shelter Children’s Fishing Trip. David Anderson, Virginia Beach Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**
- D) 2020 Children's Fishing Clinic. Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$7,500.**
- E) 2020 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$7,500.**
- F) 2020 Saxis and Morley's Wharf Children’s Fishing and Conservation Educational Outings. Steven Elliot, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,200.**
- G) 2020 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. James “Ike” Eisenhower, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,200.**
- H) 2020 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club/Sunshine Program. **\$8,050.**

Mr. Randolph motioned to approve items A through H as a block, and Mr. Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Research Projects

- I) Marine Sportfish Collection Project, Year 12. A. Kenyon, VMRC **\$12,000.**

Mr. Randolph motioned to approve item I, and Mr. Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- J) Virginia Game Fish Tagging 2020. S. Musick (VIMS), L. Gillingham (VMRC). **\$82,487.**

Mr. Randolph motioned to approve item J, and Mr. Arey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- K) *Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay. M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. \$26,960. **(\$13,480 from VSRFDF, and \$13,480 from MFIF)**

Mr. Randolph motioned to approve item K, and Mr. Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- L) *Federal Assistance (Sportfish Restoration) Matching Funds, Federal FY 2020. R. O’Reilly, VMRC. **\$196,619 (\$167,773 from VSRFDF, 27,946 from MFIF).**

Alicia Nelson noted that the request for the federal assistance match was updated to reflect a deficit from the previous year, due to budget cuts. There were also some shifts to the commercial license fund. She also noted, that if funds were not used in FY2020, it would be carried over and reduce the funding level for FY2021.

Mr. Randolph motioned to approve item L, and Mr. Holland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Access Projects 6:40

M) Currioman Landing Dredge Project. N. Risavi, Westmoreland County **\$117,000.**

Mr. Rhodes noted that the applicant had completed everything that was requested during the cycle.

Ms. Karen Lewis, Assistant County Administrator for Westmoreland County, noted that the county administrators and engineers had been to the previous meetings. She noted that there is limited boat access in that area of the county, and that the boat ramp has been used extensively.

Mr. Rhodes asked if the county had reviewed the checklist and agreed to all of the items. Ms. Lewis confirmed that the county agreed to all items on the checklist (a copy of the signed checklist will be part of any contracts on the project).

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

Mr. Rhodes noted that applications for next year's cycle are due on April 15th, and that the first meeting for the 2020 cycle is tentatively scheduled for the second Monday in May.

Mr. Rhodes also noted that Rob O'Reilly, chief of fisheries management, is retiring as of September 13. He asked that Pat Geer, the upcoming chief of fisheries management introduced himself.

Mr. Geer introduced himself and his background in fisheries management in Virginia. He will be beginning his role as chief of fisheries management as of Monday. He noted his goals with staff and the creation of the new ageing lab at VMRC.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.