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Meeting Minutes

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Monday, September 14, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Virtual Public Hearing Meeting

Members Present

Sheldon Arey
Wayne Jessie Jr.
Randy Pack
Charles Randolph
Ed Rhodes
Charles Southall
Maggie Whittemore

Staff Present

Pat Geer
Lewis Gillingham
Alicia Nelson
Terri Short

Board Members Absent

J. T. Holland
Meriwether Payne

Others Present

David Anderson
Wes Brown
Charles Croft
Denny Dobbins
Ike Eisenhower
Mary Fabrizio
Lewie Lawrence
Jim McCaddin

The minutes were recorded by Alicia Nelson.

Agenda:

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

Alicia Nelson thanked everyone for logging on to the virtual meeting and explained some details of WebEx, including using the chat function to make comments. She noted that any votes would need to be roll-call votes, and asked speakers to please name themselves when speaking.

II. Status of Fund.

- Terri Short gave an overview of the funding levels in the VSRFDF. She noted that there was \$2,383,248 available for projects.

III. Review of Minutes from the August 2020 RFAB Meeting.

The meetings were approved by consent.

IV. Fishing event applications for 2021 events:

- A) 0420-01 2021 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day. Jim McCaddin, Knights of Columbus. **\$7,500.**

There were no public comments on this item.

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- B) 0420-01 2021 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. Joseph Stephenson; George Reich, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$1,460.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- C) 0420-03 2021 Virginia Beach Anglers Club/Seton Youth Shelter Children's Fishing Trip. David Anderson, Virginia Beach Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- D) 0420-04 D 2021 Children's Fishing Clinic. Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$7,500.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- E) 0420-05 E 2021 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$7,500.**

Mr. Brown apologized for not being available at the last meeting. He described the club's hopes to hold a clinic in 2021 that has been consistent with the previous years' events.

- F) 0420-06 F 2021 Saxis and Morley's Wharf Children's Fishing and Conservation Educational Outings. Steven Elliot, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,200.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- G) 0420-07 G 2021 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. James "Ike" Eisenhower, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,200.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- H) 0420-08 H 2021 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club/Sunshine Program. **\$9,904.**

Mr. Dobbins described his event because he was not able to make the previous meeting. He noted that he hopes to take about 800 kids fishing during summer 2021 with multiple boat and pier trips.

V. Research Projects

- I) 0420-09 I Virginia Game Fish Tagging 2021. S. Musick (VIMS), L. Gillingham (VMRC). **\$88,806.**

There were no public comments on this item.

- J) 0420-10 J *Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay. M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. \$28,906. **(\$14,453 from VSRFDF, and \$14,453 from MFIF).**

There were no public comments on this item.

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- K) 0420-11 *Federal Assistance (Sportfish Restoration) Matching Funds, Federal FY 2020. P. Geer. \$283,835 (**243,287 from VSRFDF, 40,548 from MFIF**)

There were no public comments on this item.

VI. Access Projects

- L) 0420-12 Reconstruction of a Saltwater Fishing Pier on the Severn River. L. Lawrence, MPPDC. **\$50,000.**

Mr. Lawrence answered questions that the board members had discussed at the work session about accessibility, parking, maintenance, and fees. He noted that there were no plans for fees in the future, and that the access road and parking area were adequate for the planned pier and other activities at the site. Maintenance would be handled by the MPPDC, and they have long-term plans to ensure funds for maintenance. The newly rebuilt pier will be ADA accessible.

There was also discussion about the proximity of duck hunting locations at the site. These locations are located at the other side of the recreational area opposite of the pier location.

The next RFAB meeting has not yet been set. The soonest possible meeting date would be the second Monday in October. The meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.