

# MINUTES

## SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**February 6, 2024  
4:00 to 6:00 pm**

Commission Room  
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96  
Fort Monroe, Virginia

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Members Present

J. C. Hudgins  
Richard Harding  
Beverly Ludford  
Jackie Shannon  
Lee Deihl  
Don Porter via WebEx  
Cody Metcalf via WebEx

Members Present

Tommy Kellum  
Ernest George  
Peyton Mason  
Dan Dize via WebEx  
Wayne France  
Ben Johnson

VMRC/VIMS/VDH Staff

Andrew Button  
Adam Kenyon  
Jamie Hogge  
William Murray  
Andy Shinn  
Melissa Southworth, VIMS  
Roger Mann, VIMS

J. C. Hudgins, Chairman, opened the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Member L. Deihl made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Kellum. Motion passed 11-0-1. Member W. France abstained.

**Approval of January 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes:**

Member B. Ludford stated that Member Ben Johnson was present during the January 9, 2024, SMAC meeting but was not listed on the January minutes.

Member Kellum made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Member Deihl seconded the motion. Motion passed 11-0-1. Member W. France abstained.

Member Ernest George spoke about some of the past Commission Meetings and about how some of the items that were discussed and approved were not what was discussed during SMAC. Member Ernest George verbally resigned from Shellfish Management Advisory Committee. His comments were a part of the verbatim record.

J. C. Hudgins, Chairman accepted Member E. Georges resignation from the Committee. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

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## SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

### Discussion of 2024 Oyster Restoration and Replenishment Plan

Andrew Button, Deputy Chief, Shellfish Management, began the meeting with a discussion to explain the upcoming replenishment projects and budget. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

### Seed

Andrew Button provided a presentation to explain the seed transfer program through the years and the effect of salinity. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Priority plant areas for seed:

Blackberry Hangs

Rappahannock Area 7 & Area 8

The Committee agreed that the price on shell/seed would depend on the plant location and cost of transportation to plant area.

The prices that were discussed with the committee were approximately \$15.00 per bushel for seed and \$3.00 - \$6.00 per bushel for shell. The committee agreed that there should be a cap on the amount paid per bushel, area specific.

### Shell Planting:

Member T. Kellum asked if consideration was taken as to why shell is planted in sanctuary areas as opposed to stone. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Andrew Button explained that both shell and stone can be planted but it is a matter of cost. Some areas are not ideal for stone. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Possible shell planting areas:

Rappahannock Area 6 (Punchbowl)

Rappahannock Area 7 & Area 8

### Alternative Substrate plants:

Mobjack & Elizabeth River

Possibly some harvest areas:

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## SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Member B. Ludford made a motion to approve the plan and to take into consideration about what areas need to be replenished while using discretion. The prices that were discussed with the committee were approximately \$15.00 per bushel for seed and \$3.00 - \$6.00 per bushel for shell. The committee agreed that there should be a cap on the amount paid per bushel, area specific. Member P. Mason seconded motion. Motion passed 10-0-1. Member T. Kellum abstained from the negotiation for the shell projects.

### Public Comment

James Green – Request to be able to harvest the daily 16 bushels in hand scrape area then be able to harvest James River seed the same day.

Ty. Farrington – transferability of the Oyster User Fee All Gear

Request new regulation be incorporated with the old regulation to make it easier to transfer an Oyster User Fee All Gear license. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

J. C. Hudgins, Chairman, request the Oyster User Fee All Gear numbers of those working and those not working for the next committee meeting. J. C. Hudgins, Chairman, also recommended placing a cap on the Oyster User Fee All Gear transfers. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Member B. Johnson made a motion to revise the Oyster User Fee All Gear transferability. Member L. Deihl seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

### Open Discussion

Member T. Kellum made a statement that he was not buying the amount of oyster this year as last year due to the lack of boats, unfavorable market, and weather conditions. He also stated that the harvest has decreased. Member C. Metcalf also mirrored Member T. Kellums comments. Their comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Member T. Kellum motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Member B. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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