

# MEETING MINUTES

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
Tuesday, July 9, 2024

## Members Present

Meriwether Payne  
Charles Randolph  
Charles Southall  
Maggie Whittemore

## Staff Present

Sheri Crocker  
Pat Geer  
Alicia Nelson

## Board Members Absent

J.T. Holland  
Wayne Jessie Jr.  
Ed Rhodes

## Others Present

Allison Eubank  
Jan McDowell  
Susanna Musick  
Troy Tuckey

The meeting minutes were recorded by Alicia Nelson.

## Agenda:

### I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

Alicia Nelson welcomed everyone and thanked the board for meeting in person. She noted that the most pressing items for this meeting were the Broken Men summer program application and the review and vote for the RFAB manual that includes the virtual and remote participation policies.

### II. Status of Fund.

Sheri Crocker gave updates on the status of the fund. She noted that the accounting for funds reserved for projects, DGIF support costs, and agency obligations (\$2,093,144), that the projected funds available for projects as of May 31, 2024 is \$3,626,522.

### III. Review of Minutes from September 12, 2022 and May 13, 2024 RFAB Meetings.

Mr. Southall motioned to approve both the September 12, 2022 and May 13, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The motion passed unanimously.

### IV. Review of the RFAB manual and virtual and remote participation policies.

Ms. Nelson reviewed RFAB manual and the virtual and remote participation policies and rules as part of the manual. The board requested changes to the language relating to applicants' attendance at meetings during the cycle and a few clarifications and edits

to the numbering. Mr. Southall voted to approve the RFAB manual and virtual and remote participation policies with the administrative amendments. Ms. Payne seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The board discussed several items to add to future agendas and discussions to include in the manual. Mr. Southall and Mr. Randolph discussed enforceability of contract requirements for funded projects, using commercial use of recreational ramps as an example. They hoped to see some sort of documentation for any contract violations, followed by a clear enforcement. Several ideas were discussed including limitations for new applications for municipalities found out of compliance with the contract.

Other more clear guidelines were requested in the future including better clarification of the license fee discounts for piers (one example was “no less than 25%”), and additional emphasis on angler benefits in project applications.

V. Fishing event applications:

- A) 0424-01 2025 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. T.B. Butch Pierce; Great Bridge Fisherman’s Association. **\$2,450.**
- B) 0424-02 2025 Virginia Beach Anglers Club/Seton Youth Shelter Children’s Fishing Trip. Bob Burstein, Virginia Beach Anglers Club. **\$2,500.**
- C) 0424-03 2025 Norfolk Youth Head Boat Fishing Trip. Ike Eisenhower, Norfolk Anglers Club. **\$1,800.**
- D) 0424-04 2025 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic and Kiwanis Fishing Clinic. Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$11,000.**
- E) 0424-05 2025 Saxis and Morley's Wharf Children’s Fishing and Conservation Educational Outings. Robert Mucha, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$2,662.**
- F) 0424-06 2025 Knights of Columbus Annual Kids Fishing Day. Jim McCaddin, Knights of Columbus. **\$7,500.**
- G) 0424-07 2024 Broken Men Foundation Incentive-Based Goal Fishing Trip for the Summer Program. **\*updated\*** Ellery Lundy, Broken Men Foundation. **\$13,975.**

The board noted that Mr. Lundy had presented the project at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting but that it could not be voted on at that time due to a lack of quorum. The 2025 foundation event will be heard with the other fishing event programs during the fall review; however, this project was heard during the July meeting so that funds could be available for the end of summer trip. Ms. Payne motioned to recommend funding the project. Mr. Southall seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- H) 0424-08 2025 Broken Men Foundation Incentive-Based Goal Fishing Trip. Ellery Lundy, Broken Men Foundation. **\$13,975.**

VI. Other Projects:

I) 0424-09 Virginia Game Fish Tagging 2024. S. Musick (VIMS), L. Gillingham (VMRC). **\$92,495.**

J) 0424-10 \*Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay. M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. \$32,983. **(\$16,492 from VSRFDF, and \$16,491 from MFIF).**

Troy Tuckey presented the project noting that they were unavailable at the May meeting to present. He noted that use of the data in recent assessments.

K) 0424-11 \*Federal Assistance (Sportfish Restoration) Matching Funds, Federal FY 2025. P. Geer. \$204,822 **(\$153,616 from VSRFDF, \$51,206 from MFIF).**

L) 0424-12 \*Boat Scarring Effects on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation in Virginia: Monitoring and Recovery Patterns – year 23. Christopher Patrick, VIMS. \$21,919 **(\$10,960 from VSRFDF, and \$10,959 from MFIF).**

Ms. Nelson noted that the PI for the project was unable to attend at this time due to a personal matter and that he planned to present to the board during their next meeting.

M) 0424-13 M Use of Satellite Archival Transmitting Tags (PSATS) to evaluate air exposure and handling effects on the survival of red drum (*Scianops ocellastus*) released during Virginia's late summer recreational fishery. **\*updated\*** Hamish Small, VIMS. **\$84,975.**

N) 0424-14 Genetic Analysis of the Distinctiveness of Gray Triggerfish, *Balistes capricus* sampled from Virginia. Jan McDowell, VIMS. **\$78,295.**

O) 0424-15 MLC Public Access Waterfront Enhancement and Community Saltwater Learn to Fish Program. Bernadette La Casse, Mathews Land Conservancy. **\$27,600.**

Ms. Nelson passed out an update provided by Ms. La Casse about the 2024 event.

P) 0424-16 Phoebus Waterfront Park Dock Improvements. Alison Eubank, City of Hampton. **\*updated\* \$120,000.**

The applicants were present, but there were no questions or comments. The board clarified that a peer review would be available by the next meeting.

Q) 0424-17 Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament: Youth Division Add-On. **\*updated\*** Joseph Grist, VMRC. **\$10,259.**

R) Other Business:

Mr. Southall brought up the agency obligations listed in the budget for the fund, and there was a discussion about how to best characterize the agency obligations for the public. Alicia Nelson noted that the majority of expenditures listed under agency obligations were items required by the General Assembly. Clarifying the obligations was discussed in several ways including the financial report, minutes, and meeting agenda. It was decided to include the amount available, expected obligations, and amount available for projects as a table in the meeting agenda.

S) Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.