

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Monday, July 9, 2018
5:30 p.m. (Work Session) and 7:00 p.m. (Public Hearing)

Board Members Present

Sheldon Arey
Carolyn Brown
J. T. Holland
Randy Pack
Meriwether Payne
Charles Randolph
Ed Rhodes
Charles Southall

Staff Present

Rob O'Reilly
Terri Short
Debbie Corker
Lewis Gillingham

Board Members Absent

Jack Miller

Others Present

Denny Dobbins
Joe Stephenson
George Reich
Greg Brown
Charles Clarkson
Jim McCaddin
Mary Fabrizio
Troy Tuckey
Dave Anderson
Wes Blow
Susanna Musick

The minutes were recorded by Lewis Gillingham; an audio recording of the meeting is available.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing

AF provided a quick overview of the status of the Fund indicating as of the end of June \$744,470 was available for projects.

A motion was made by Mr. Randolph to approve the minutes from the May 2018 RFAB meeting, and it was seconded by Mr. Southall. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Fabrizio gave the VIMS Report "A Brief Guide to Striped Bass Ecology & Management in the Chesapeake Bay," that the RFAB requested and license money funded in 2016. The report was informative and the Board thanked Dr. Fabrizio for her effort. Rob O'Reilly indicated the MRIP data has been going through a recalibration following several years of pilot testing a new method of measuring effort (avidity-trips per angler within a two month period). This week new MRIP estimates were released they produced large increases in the estimated catch estimates with some more than doubling. The estimated catches of striped bass increased but the trend of decreasing recreational catch of striped in recent years, shown in the VIMS, was maintained. What will change is the ratio of commercial to recreational catch, as the recreational has increased. The recreational catch data in the final report will need to be adjusted and proportions of the fishery (rec versus comer.) will change.

There were no public comments received for the 2019 projects requesting funding. Some representatives did attend and several provided an update on this year's event. The Board requested the GBFA provide more detail on what the license fund would pay for in their total

budget. Their representative provided an excel spreadsheet and the Board indicated that was sufficient. Denny Dobbins, coordinator for the Sunshine Children's Fishing Program indicated their 2018 weekly fishing events had begun and two trips were completed. Bonnie Fitz coordinator for the York County project fishing platform project was unable to attend due to the sudden illness of her grandfather. Chairman Rhodes indicated she had provided information the Board requested during the May meeting in an email. She indicated depth reading at low water (1 foot) and high water (3.5 feet) were recorded. Additionally, she spoke with three people at Army Corp of Engineering and the Corp is not aware of any future dredging scheduled for Wormley Creek, as they dredged not too long ago but only to the channel marker and not all the way to the fishing platform.

Rob O'Reilly informed the public and Board of a reduction in the request for Wallop Breaux cash match. The required match has decreased from \$301,334 to \$205,722 and the license money will fund \$176,334 and the CFAB the remaining \$29,388.