

MEETING AGENDA

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board

Monday, September 14, 2026

2:00 pm

Members Present

Stan Gold
Wayne Jessie Jr.
Kylie Muir
Charles Randolph
Ed Rhodes
Wally Veal
Meriweather Payne (Remote)

Board Members Absent

J.T Holland
Maggie Whittemore

Staff Present

Alicia Nelson
Ethan Simpson
James (Hunter) Smith
Adam Tomlin (Remote)

Others Present

Bernadette La Casse

Meeting minutes were recorded by Alica Nelson and Adam Tomlin. A recording of the meetings and presentations are available.

Tentative Agenda

I. Introduction, Announcements, Comments.

The meeting was called to order at 2:22 pm. Charles Randolph motioned for Meriwether Payne to be allowed to participate as a voting member of the meeting, but not as a count towards reaching quorum. Mr. Randolph motioned, and it was seconded by Wally Veal. The motion passed unanimously.

Alicia Nelson notes that the six applications that will be reviewed today are the last remaining for this cycle.

II. Status of Fund.

Alicia Nelson provided the status of funds and noted that as of August 31, 2026, a little less than \$5.2 million available for projects.

III. Review of Minutes of the August 2026 RFAB Meeting

Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2026 RFAB meeting, and Stan Gold seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Fishing event applications:

A) 0426-06 Hooked on the Future. Chris Schramm, Chasing Freedom. **\$12,743.**

The item was heard as a group with item C.

B) 0426-07 2026 Event Schedule. Micheal Lyons, Fishing for the Mission 22. **\$6,486.**

Mr. Veal motioned to table both items A and B, and suggest the applicants submit a new application during the next cycle because neither had been presented during this cycle, Mr. Randolph seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C) 0426-17 C.A.S.T. for Kids-Eastern Shore. Zachary Tanner. **\$5,769.**

Mr. Rhodes noted that Mr. Tanner had previously submitted all the requested information regarding lowering the dollar amount per child to the 75–90-dollar range, making the new request for \$5,769. Mr. Randolph made a motion to recommend funding the project, and the motion was seconded by Wally Veal. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Projects:

D) 0426-08 MLC Public Access Waterfront Enhancement and Community Saltwater Learn to Fish Program (SL2F). Bernadette La Casse, Mathews Land Conservancy. **\$30,600.**

Bernadette La Casse followed up with the board with their request for the VMRC checklist and to see if they had any follow-up questions about the application. Mr. Randolph asked about the riprap material. Bernadette reassured the board that the riprap and bulkhead repair would be contracted, and that they would submit all the proper permits for approval.

Bernadette let the board know that DWR has decided to run 2 free fishing events per year from now on instead of one, and that although this is a late request, if they would be able to have additional grant money to run a second event in 2027, one in June and one in September. Bernadette informed the board that it would probably be around 2,000 for the first event and around \$1,250 – \$1,500 for the second event. Alicia Nelson noted we usually vote on fishing events in May, and that we could possibly vote on a May Commission meeting for additional funds. The board decided to make a final decision next spring.

Mr. Randolph stated that they are not comfortable with the riprap and bulkhead maintenance portion of this application, as it doesn't align with what his understanding of improving recreational fishing opportunities. Bernadette responded by pointing out that the board has funded water way improvement projects throughout the region and that is exactly what this project is. Mr. Randolph reiterated that the maintenance does not feel like something this program should provide.

Kylie Muir asked if the riprap was posing any dangers to the children or individuals that would use this waterway. Ms. La Casse replied that it is adequate and is not posing any danger currently, but that it needs to be maintained, and that it was recommended that it was fixed.

Ms. Muir also asked if there was fishing along this area of shoreline, and Ms. La Casse explained that there was fishing opportunity along the shoreline in the area discussed.

Mr. Gold motioned to approve the application as is, Mrs. Muir seconded. five for, two against.

E) 0426-14 Planning the Renovation of Coles Point Boater Access, Westmoreland County. John Kirk, DWR. **\$100,000.**

Mr. Veal motioned to approve this application, Mr. Gold seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

F) 0426-16 Planning the Renovation of Gloucester Point Boater Access, Gloucester County. John Kirk, DWR. **\$41,019.**

Mr. Randolph motioned to approve this application, Mr. Veal seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Artificial Reef Program Update

James (Hunter) Smith provided an update on the Artificial Reef Program. He noted that 2,141.7 tons of concrete from the HRBT has been deployed to date at Bluefish Rock Reef and that crews are currently planning on deploying 3-5,000 tons of concrete later in the week. Additionally, Harrison-Lear provided 600 tons of concrete storm water pipes to the program, the program in the process of organizing how to transport the material to the Newport News facility to be deployed. Finally, the program has drawn up a design for a new camera mount in order better photograph underwater reef structures and plan to build and test it soon.

VI. Adjourn.

Mr. Randolph motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 2:55 pm.