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MEETING MINUTES

Virginia Commercial Fishing Advisory Board

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Tuesday, August 13, 2024; 2:00 pm

Members Present

Nathan Reynolds
Richard Harding
Revel Walker
Ross Kellum
James Minor
Ben Johnson
Jason Smith

Board Members Absent

Dan Dise
Lynn Kellum

Others Present

Todd Janeski

Staff Present

Sheri Crocker
Jamie Green
Alicia Nelson
Rachael Peabody

The meeting minutes were recorded by Alicia Nelson. The meeting was held at the VMRC main office at 380 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA. Project applications are available at <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/vsrfdf/projects.php>

Agenda:

I. Introduction, announcements, comments.

Alicia Nelson thanked everyone for attending the meeting in person and noted two additional meetings would be scheduled before the end of the calendar year. Sheri Crocker gave a brief update on the status of the fund. Approximately \$1,081,889 are available for projects at this time.

II. Review of the meeting minutes from the February 2024 meeting.

Mr. Minor motioned to approve the minutes from the February 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harding and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. Review of the Commercial Fishing Advisory Board Manual (including virtual and remote participation policies).

Ms. Nelson reviewed the policies and procedures for virtual meetings and remote participation, and the board received copies of the draft manual. Mr. Minor motioned to

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approve the CFAB manual, and Mr. Kellum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Current applications:

A. 2024 Commercial Fisheries Offshore Ocean Planning Coordination. Todd Janeski. VCU. **\$176,040.**

Todd Janeski gave a presentation and discussed his past work and future plans with the CFAB. This grant provides funding for a manager to serve as the Virginia Ocean-based Commercial Fisheries Coordinator (“Fisheries Coordinator”) for the VA Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). The Coordinator provides direct support to the Commissioner’s Office and the Commonwealth on ocean fishing issues relating to fisheries permitted, licenses, or landed in Virginia to ensure they are fully informed to changes in ocean use that will affect commercial fishing activities, traditional use, and the protection of domestic food security. This position will also directly provide policy assistance and advise the Virginia Administration on issues as it relates to the interaction of commercial fisheries and the deployment of offshore wind off Virginia and relative to those projects that directly affect those jobs and revenue to the State of Virginia.

The Fisheries Coordinator will focus especially on the commercial fishing sector, as their activities relate to planned and future offshore renewable energy including offshore wind (OSW). This proposal includes the addition of subcontracted technical assistance to research relevant and emerging issues, conduct and evaluate economic exposure analysis and to provide direct assistance and guidance to address impacts to commercial fishing from changes in ocean use; this includes the Law Office of Shaun Gehan, Desautel-Browning Law and Capital Trade, Inc.

Commissioner Green commented on the value of the work that had been done previously on the project and discussed the need for ongoing support for ocean planning efforts, particularly as it relates to wind energy development off of the coast. Board members noted that Mr. Janeski had been very supportive of the offshore fisheries. There was ongoing discussion on future needs and the importance of making sure fisheries were thoroughly represented and described during wind energy planning. Mr. Minor motioned to recommend funding the project. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. Biological Monitoring of River Herring in Virginia; additional project funds addendum. Eric Hilton, VIMS, **\$8,000.**

Alicia Nelson presented the item. She explained that the river herring project had been initially presented and approved in Fall 2023. This project is typically funded at \$40,000 annually. Due to a miscommunication between match and indirect funds, the funds requested totaled \$32,000, leaving the project \$8,000 short for this cycle. Dr. Hilton submitted a letter asking for the additional funds to complete this cycle. The 2025 cycle funding will be requested at the next meeting (with clarification for the total amount needed). Mr. Minor motioned to recommend funding the project. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

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V. Additional business:

The board discussed the need for a chairperson (and co-chair) per the CFAB manual. After some discussion on expectations of the chairperson, Mr. Minor was chosen as the board chairperson and Mr. Walker was chosen as co-chair.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.