



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2013



Location: Senate Chamber, 1st Floor, Legislative Hall, Dover
Div. of Fish & Wildlife: Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bernie Pankowski, Chairman
David Russell, Vice Chair
Eric Burnley, Sr.
Bill Baker, Sr. (*Absent*)
Floyd Morton III
Sen. Robert L. Venables
Rep. John Atkins
Douglas Valentine
Ronald Horton (*Absent*)

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

John Clark
Stewart Michels
Larry Horan
David Saveikis, Director
Kim Stangl

PUBLIC

11 Attendees

Agenda Item 1. Opening remarks

Chairman Pankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of minutes from April 23, 2013 Meeting

A motion passed to approve the April meeting minutes.

Agenda Item 3. Federal Aid freshwater/saltwater split – follow up on Council questions

Mr. Clark followed up on the Council's concern regarding the reduction on the tidal side in the split between funding tidal development projects and non-tidal development projects required by the Federal Aid funding regulations. Delaware's tidal/non-tidal split went from 79%:21% in 2012 to 77%:23% in 2013. He explained that the Division investigated using other angler data for the analysis, but these other data resulted in a less favorable split for tidal water.

Agenda Item 4. Redesign of boat fishing license stickers

Chairman Pankowski gave a presentation on his proposal to change the boat fishing license decal from basic lettering on a solid, oval background to lettering on a graphic background on various shaped decals. Anglers who buy the boat fishing license can, but are not required to, put the sticker next to the boat registration decal on the boat hull. He showed equivalent stickers that MD and VA currently use and presented various designs that DE could use to make these stickers more eye-catching. The **Council** passed a motion to request that the DFW examine the viability, in terms of cost and scheduling, of issuing redesigned graphic boat fishing license stickers.

Agenda Item 5. Fleetwood Pond access update

Director Saveikis briefed the Council on the Division's investigation into providing fishing access to Fleetwood Pond. The DFW acquired Fleetwood Pond in 2000, but this 39-acre pond does not currently have public fishing access. As part of the acquisition, the Division acquired a narrow wooded parcel of 4 acres, which extends from the pond to the nearest road, that could be developed to provide fishing and boating access to the pond. Director

Saveikis explained that the Division determined that the estimated \$485,000 cost to develop access at this parcel would outweigh the benefits to a limited number of anglers. The **Council** asked for more background on the Fleetwood Pond purchase for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6. Augustine Beach boat ramp sediment removal

Mr. Horan briefed the Council on the Division's efforts to remove sediment from the boat ramp at the Augustine Beach fishing access area. The sediment build-up at this ramp makes launching and retrieving boats at low tide very difficult. The engineering studies have been completed, permits have been prepared and state equipment is lined-up to do the work. The DFW anticipates beginning the project in early spring of 2014 if permits are approved. The estimated cost of this work is \$30,000. The **Council** voted unanimously to approve this project.

Agenda Item 7. Update on current and proposed construction projects

Mr. Horan went over ongoing and planned DFW construction projects. Engineering and design are nearly complete for the major reconstruction of the Phillips Landing boat ramp, with the start of construction anticipated late in 2014. Sediment removal from the channel connecting the Records Pond boat ramp to the deeper water of the pond was discussed, focusing on the difficulties in getting the necessary equipment into the pond and the lack of nearby sediment disposal sites, with the DFW indicating that it will continue working to identify a way to do this project. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Records Pond sediment removal project. Ongoing development projects discussed included repaving parking lots at several access areas, installing ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant courtesy docks at several DNREC-owned ponds, and fixing the hole at the end of the Rosedale Beach boat ramp on Indian River. Mr. Horan presented an economical method to fix the Rosedale Beach boat ramp hole and the Council voted unanimously for the DFW to proceed with this project. He also discussed the possibility of building a fishing pier at Dobbinsville and

the delays in getting the remediation funds (from the November 2004 Athos I oil spill in the Delaware River) for the 7th Street Wilmington boat ramp restoration project.

Agenda Item 8. Follow up from previous meeting (Millsboro Pond bottom ownership, benches at Masseys Landing)

Mr. Clark said that the town of Millsboro owns the pond bottom at Millsboro Pond and the DFW owns a permanent easement to the boat ramp. He also stated that the Federal Aid program that funds fishing access areas discourages the installation of items that are not fishing-related at access areas. The DFW evaluated a request to install benches at Masseys Landing, but determined that this facility is already heavily used for fishing and boat-launching, as intended, so there is no need for benches.

Agenda Item 9. Public comments

Chief Brad Speakman of Port Penn Volunteer Fire Company spoke on behalf of his volunteer firemen who are in favor of sediment removal at the Augustine boat ramp. He explained that current conditions at the Augustine boat ramp obstruct their ability to quickly respond to emergencies that may occur off-shore. **Mr. Bob Watson** requested that the DFW look into the installation of cleats on the dock at the Lewes fishing access area to which **Mr. Horan** responded positively.

Agenda Item 10. Ending remarks and adjournment

Mr. Burnley brought up an item of new business based on a fish tagging program in Virginia. He gave details about the program, including that it is a very successful information gathering program, and explained that the tagging is performed by trained recreational fishermen. He asked that the DFW consider implementing a similar program in DE. After some discussion, **Chairman Pankowski** stated the next meeting is tentatively planned for April 2014 and requested that agenda include further discussion regarding a fish tagging program and a brief presentation on the Bayshore Initiative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Stangl
Recording Secretary