



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2008



Location: Division of Soil & Water Building, Pilottown Road, Lewes, Delaware
(Adjacent to new Lewes Boat Ramp Construction Site)
Div. of Fish & Wildlife Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bill Baker
Bernie Pankowski
Eric Burnley, Sr.
Jack Carpenter
Floyd Morton III
Ralph Newberry
David Russell
Sen. Robert L. Venables
Rep. Gerald W. Hocker

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Roy Miller
Lynn Herman
Lacy Nichols, Jr.

PUBLIC

7 Visitors

A digital recording of this meeting may be screened in the Fisheries Section of the Division of Fish & Wildlife at the Richardson & Robbins Building in Dover. For further information, please contact the Fisheries section at (302)739-9914.

Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He then welcomed everyone to the second meeting of this Advisory Council and introductions were exchanged.

Agenda Item 2. Review of Legislative Charge for this Council

Mr. Miller explained that this council has been tasked with providing guidance to the DFW in selecting and prioritizing construction and maintenance projects for the Fisheries Section. He mentioned that at the first meeting, on April 22nd, each council member was given a large binder containing descriptions and multiple pictures of all DFW existing fishing access areas - those needing regular maintenance and those in need of extensive repairs. He said that the Department will keep the council informed of maintenance needs, and the status of pending and current construction projects. The DFW will also keep the council updated on fishing license revenues received, and on anticipated fishing license revenue, which will better enable the council to plan for potential future projects.

Agenda Item 3. Update on Fishing License Revenue for 2008

Mr. Herman stated that fishing license revenues received through June total \$844,000, and he added that he anticipates the DFW will receive \$1.7 million from fishing license sales for 2008. **Mr. Miller** briefly explained the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program which is a cost-reimbursement program where the state covers the full amount of an approved project and then applies for reimbursement from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance (up to 75% of the project expenses). The state must provide at least 25 % of the project costs from a non-federal source. These federal funds may only be spent on recreational finfish species projects. He then briefly explained the Department's proposed FIN (Fishing Information Network) number regulation which will bring Delaware into compliance with federal government plans for a marine fishing registry (to gather recreational fishing data) beginning in 2009. The proposed regulation will require all fishermen, (including fishing license exempt) beginning Jan. 1, 2009, to call a toll-free phone number or access an internet website to obtain a free of charge FIN number which will create a data record for the federal government to access in order to gather fishing data for fisheries management purposes. This proposed regulation would prevent Delaware residents from having to purchase a separate federal saltwater fishing license, which is planned beginning in 2011, for any state which is not able to comply with the requirements of the federal marine fishing registry. In other words; in a non-compliant state, anglers would be required to purchase the state's fishing license and the federal fishing license, in order to fish legally in saltwater. **Mr. Miller** said that if this proposed regulation passes, the DFW will then solicit for a company to create a database which would capture the required information for the federal government, and he added that this service will be paid from fishing license revenue.

Agenda Item 4. Department Priorities for Fishing Access

Mr. Miller went through a power point presentation on the DFW's existing construction and maintenance projects. He said that on-going or already committed projects include; the Lewes boat launch ramp, Cape Henlopen Pier repairs (the DFW is providing \$500,000 of W/B funds which the Div. of Parks & Recreation is responsible for 25% matching funds), Laurel boat

ramp and Newton Pond at Owens Station. **Representative Hocker** suggested turning the Cape Henlopen Pier over to DFW. He pointed out the existing access sites needing critical maintenance and repairs, including; the Bowers Beach dock and bulkhead, Port Mahon fishing pier entrance ramp, Cedar Creek parking lot and bulkhead, Bowers Beach commercial dock and bulkhead (which is not eligible for fishing license funds or W/B funds), Port Mahon dock next to the boat ramp and the 7th Street boat ramp in Wilmington. He then went through recurring maintenance needs, including; dredging at the Augustine ramp, mud removal at all tidal ramps, and dredging of boating channel at Rosedale Beach. **Audience member, Mr. Kurt Brown**, commented that he believes the Concord Pond spillway is a priority and is in need of major repairs.

Agenda Item 5. Potential New Projects

Mr. Miller explained that there are many projects the DFW is considering for the future. Some of these potential projects for tidal areas are a crabbing pier at Boat Hole at the mouth of Love Creek, expansion of the existing boat access site at Odessa/Appoquinimink River, and an ocean fishing pier. Potential non-tidal projects include enhancing the shoreline access on state-owned ponds, a fishing pier and accessible walkway at Blairs Pond and continuing dialog with DelDOT concerning fisherman access to stormwater ponds along Route 1. He stated that the DFW is open for additional ideas for future fishing access. **Mr. Baker** commented that for now the Council should prioritize existing projects only, instead of considering potential new projects.

After some discussion regarding this council's current objectives, **Mr. Burnley** stated that the group needs a chairman and possibly a vice-chair which will allow for more efficient meetings with clear objectives. He said that after two hours of discussion, nothing has been accomplished, and he believes the group needs to become more structured. **Mr. Miller** suggested that the meeting adjourn and that council members stay in order to elect a chairman and vice chairman, or that they hold an election at the next meeting. The Council voted to hold another meeting in September in this same location. The meeting adjourned and council members stayed for voting purposes. **Election results: Mr. Eric Burnley voted chairman, Mr. Bill Baker voted vice chairman.**

Respectfully submitted,


Kim Records
Recording Secretary



**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2008**



*Location: Division of Soil & Water Building, Pilottown Road, Lewes, Delaware
(Adjacent to new Lewes Boat Ramp Construction Site)

*DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS, Location of meeting was changed to the Cannon Lab at the College of Marine Studies, also on Pilottown Road
Div. of Fish & Wildlife Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Eric Burnley, Sr. (Chairman)
Bill Baker
Bernie Pankowski
Jack Carpenter
Floyd Morton III
Ralph Newberry
David Russell
Sen. Robert L. Venables (absent)
Rep. Gerald W. Hocker

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Roy Miller
Lynn Herman
Patrick Emory
Ronald Smith

PUBLIC

Approximately 6
visitors

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Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Burnley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

Agenda Item 2. Review of Legislative Charge for this Council

Mr. Miller reviewed that this council has been tasked with providing guidance to the DFW in selecting and prioritizing construction and maintenance projects for the Fisheries Section. In other words, the council is charged with advising how to spend new license funds and associated federal dollars on acquisition and construction projects such as: boat ramps, shore fishing facilities, piers, docks, and artificial reefs, which would benefit fish and fishermen. **Mr. Emory** mentioned that there had been some confusion among members of this council regarding subject matter that is actually covered by other advisory councils, so he wants to make sure that this council is aware of their legislative charge. For clarification, **Mr. Miller** then re-introduced himself as the Fisheries Administrator in charge of the fisheries portion of the Division, and introduced other staff present, including: Division Director Pat Emory who is in charge of every section of the Division (Fish, Wildlife, Enforcement, Dog & Mosquito Control) and, Lynn Herman who is a Program Manager in charge of the coordination/financial portion of the Division, and finally, Ronald Smith who is a former Division employee now working temporarily to oversee the Lewes boat ramp project.

Agenda Item 3. Quick Update on Fishing License Revenue for 2008

Mr. Herman went over a fishing license revenue summary for revenues received through August 31 of this

year. The summary showed a breakdown of the number of licenses sold, revenues received for each license, and the percentage of each license sold from total license sales. Fishing license sales through August 31 total over \$1.2 million, and resident fishing licenses make up about 50% of total license sales. He then went over a list of grants for fisheries development, which included a budget breakdown for the federal and state portions of current committed projects such as; the Lewes and Laurel boat ramps, Cape Henlopen pier and the Artificial Reef Program. **Mr. Herman** also showed information on projected revenue available, which totals over \$1.9 million, for fishermen access projects for state calendar year 2008 and for the federal calendar year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 4. Funding Commitments Already Made for 2008-2009

Mr. Miller went over the current progress of the Lewes boat ramp since weather conditions prevented the council from viewing it tonight. He mentioned that the contractor is running behind, and he estimates that the project will be completed at the end of October. Other projects that are financially committed are the Cape Henlopen pier repairs and the Laurel boat ramp on Broad Creek.

Agenda Item 5. Additional New Opportunities to Enhance Access

Mr. Miller explained that since the last meeting there are a couple of additional ideas that the DFW would like to pursue at some point in the future. The first is a t-shaped fishing pier off of the existing walkway along the Broadkill River by the new boat ramp. Another idea is a boat launch ramp in the town of Millsboro on the upper

Indian River, which would actually be constructed from the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program.

Agenda Item 6. Carryover of Maintenance and Repair Needs Presented Last Meeting

The Council had no additional questions on this topic since the last meeting, and because maintenance and repair needs may be considered in the next agenda item, there was agreement to move on.

Agenda Item 7. Council Discussion and Recommendations on Priorities for Maintenance, Acquisition, and Development

Mr. Burnley said he had asked each council member to decide on three projects they personally consider priorities, so they each went over their own priority list. He then tallied up each project ranking by each council member, and after some discussion, the following prioritization list was generated:

1. Cedar Creek parking lot and bulkhead repairs
2. Phillips Landing
3. Mulberry Landing (Assawoman Wildlife Area, not Rehoboth Bay)
4. Scotton Landing
5. Garrisons Lake
6. Augustine boat ramp dredging

Agenda Item 8. Next Meeting?

Mr. Burnley stated that he does not see the need to have another meeting until March of 2009, and those present were in agreement. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Records
Recording Secretary