



**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RECREATIONAL FISHING FUNDING**  
**MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2008**  
**\*Inaugural Meeting\***



Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901  
 Phone: 302-739-9914, Fax: 302-739-6157

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

**DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE**

Roy Miller  
 Patrick Emory  
 Lynn Herman  
 Craig Shirey  
 Lacy Nichols, Jr.  
 Stewart Michels  
 Kim Records

**PUBLIC**

1 Visitor

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. Introduction and Legislative Charge**

**Mr. Miller** called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He then introduced all staff and council members present. **Mr. Emory** expressed appreciation for the council member's participation on this new council and explained that after tonight's meeting, he hopes the Council will be well informed on the Division of Fish & Wildlife's current situation in regards to the condition of boat access areas, ramps, docks, piers, etc. He explained that the mission for this Council will be to provide guidance to the DFW in selecting and prioritizing construction and maintenance projects for the Fisheries Section. He then pointed out the large binder provided each council member, explaining that it contains descriptions and pictures of all existing fishing access areas – those in good shape and those needing repair.

**Agenda Item 2. Future Meetings – Frequency, Time, Location, Chairperson?**

**Mr. Miller** mentioned that these meetings are open to the general public and that future meetings may be held at a different place and time of day if the Council so desires. **Mr. Pankowski** pointed out that according to House Bill 107, this Council is to meet once or twice per year. **Mr. Miller** stated that more meetings may be scheduled, if needed, and **Sen. Venables** was in agreement. **Mr. Miller** added that it is the Council's decision whether or not to designate a chairperson. **Mr. Carpenter** commented that he thinks the council will need to meet more than twice, at least for this first year, in order to accomplish anything. **Mr. Burnley** wanted clarification on whether or not any funds are available for use now, to which **Mr. Herman** answered that there are some funds available now, more will be available at the end of this year and the final apportionment becomes available in April or May of 2009. The general consensus among the

council members was that they would like time to review the information contained in the binders before any final decisions are made regarding the frequency of meetings and election of a chairperson.

**Agenda Item 3. Anticipated Fishing License Revenue for 2008**

**Mr. Herman** went through his Power Point presentation while those present followed along with the hand-outs provided. He summarized the history behind the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program and explained that it is a cost-reimbursement program, where the state covers the full amount of an approved project and then applies for reimbursement from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Div. of Federal Assistance, for up to 75% of the project expenses. The state is required to provide at least 25% of the project costs from a non-federal source. Of utmost importance is that Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds may only be spent on recreational finfish species projects. **Mr. Herman** broke down the estimates for freshwater and marine boating access, possible additional federal funds and additional state funds. The estimated amount available for construction projects for April through September 2009 from all sources totals \$1,987,876.95. **Mr. Miller** went over a hand-out entitled "Synopsis of Projected Revenue", which shows the revenue collected in 2004 for DFW Fisheries licenses sold, the old fee for each license, new licenses available in 2008, the approved fees for 2008 and the total anticipated revenue for each license in 2008. The new license structure (general fishing license for fresh and tidal water, to fish, crab or clam) for 2008 is also explained, as well as the rationale for the anticipated revenue, probable impact of exemptions to the general fishing license and the advantages of a license file as a database. **Mr. Miller** also pointed out the list of critical existing unfunded

development needs. There are other potential construction projects and specific maintenance and development projects noted also. Mr. Miller briefly described a new program being considered to generate name, address and phone number files for license-exempt fishermen in our state in order to meet federal requirements by 2011. This new program would be designed to prevent Delaware anglers from having to purchase a federal saltwater fishing license as well as a state general fishing license in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Records  
Recording Secretary

**Agenda Item 4. Construction Projects Already Underway in 2008**

**Mr. Nichols** summarized the DFW's most recently completed projects, including; the boat ramp at Newport, Milford boat ramp (dock, fishing pier and canoe launch), Woodland Beach fishing pier, and Massey's Landing boat ramp. The Lewes boat ramp is currently under construction and should be completed by the end of this summer. Boat ramps at Laurel and Lums Pond are upcoming projects. Mr. Nichols mentioned the recently completed Newton Pond project (property given to the DFW by DeIDOT), which has been stocked with bass and bluegill. This pond eventually will become the Division's Sussex County trout-stocked pond.

**Agenda Item 5. List of Other Needs for Repairs and Replacements**

**Mr. Nichols** explained that there are many existing areas in need of repairs, and some structures need to be completely replaced; however, cost estimates exceed available funds. The 7<sup>th</sup> Street Park boat ramp in Wilmington has been closed since the middle of 2005 because of structural damage caused by several major weather events. The Cedar Creek and Bowers Beach boat ramps also need major repairs. Collins Beach needs to be dredged, but there are on-going permitting problems. Augustine Beach has a serious siltation problem that needs to be resolved and Phillips Landing needs some major renovations.

**Agenda Item 6. List of Potential New Projects**

**Mr. Miller** mentioned that Rep. Hocker has previously suggested that the DFW investigate the possibility of additional access areas in the southern Indian River Bay area, but because of the tremendous increase in the price of land in recent years, the Division just has not had the necessary funds to follow through.

**Agenda Item 7. Prioritization of Projects**

After some discussion, **Mr. Carpenter** suggested scheduling another meeting in two months in order to give council members time to review their binder, and if they should choose, time to visit some of the many access areas to inspect them in person - **Mr. Miller** agreed.



## 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

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### DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Roy Miller  
Lynn Herman  
Lacy Nichols, Jr.

### PUBLIC

7 Visitors

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#### **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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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