

**Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2007**

Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) Members and/or alternates in Attendance:

Jim Anderson, Doug Boyd, Terry Boyd, Thom Dammrich, Mathew Dunn, Matt Hogan, Chris Horton, Betty Huskins, Gary Kania, Ryck Lydecker, Mike Nussman, Jim Range, Geoff Ratte, John Sprague, Curtis Taylor, William Taylor, Corky Pugh

Other Attendees: Doug Hobbs (SFBPC Coordinator), Brian Bohnsack, Gary Frazer, Andrew Loftus

Convene meeting

Introductions

Opening Remarks

- *William Taylor, SFBPC Chairman*

Boating Issues Committee - Ryck Lydecker, Chair

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program: Approval of FY 2008 Council BIG Grant Recommendations

Ryck Lydecker explained the BIG project information provided to Council members for their consideration. He also recapped the ranking meeting, which is a joint meeting between a Council project review team and FWS BIG Program Coordinators. Ryck also highlighted that by taking action in this teleconference, the Council was helping fulfill its recommendation to the FWS for speeding up the delivery of grants to recipients.

Brian Bohnsack, USFWS, explained the program funding available in fiscal year 2007 for the entire BIG Program and the amount available for Tier II.

Huskins asked what the major criteria that determined project funding recommendations were.

Lydecker responded that no one criteria was dominate. Based on criteria in law / regulations.

Sprague reiterated that the joint meeting format is a good one and that it is a good way to do business.

Bohnsack also noted the utility of the meeting that results from having outside expertise at the table. This private sector perspective is one that many in the FWS do not have.

John Sprague made a motion that the Council accept the project funding recommendations made by the Council BIG Project Review Team, as submitted. Thom Dammrich seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of the SFBPC report, “Boaters’ Investment in Clean Water: A Review of the Clean Vessel Act, 1992-2007.”

CVA Review Team Chair John Sprague briefly recapped the assessment process and highlighted a few of the major findings. Sprague submitted the draft final assessment to Council members for their review prior to the call.

Kania noted that there is the potential for problems for the CVA Program, and others funded through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, when you can’t accurately identify projects and what is being accomplished. This is especially true for members of Congress.

Thom Dammrich made a motion that the Council accept the final report, with noted case studies to be added. Mike Nussman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Other business

Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Board nominations

Bill Taylor noted Council appointments to the RBFF Board that need to be filled. He asked that Betty Huskins, Ken Haddad and Ryck Lydecker serve as the Council’s nominating committee for filling the Board seats.

National Fish Habitat Action Plan letter

Bill Taylor asked for Council reaction and feedback on a draft letter to the National Fish Habitat Board expressing concern with the ongoing implementation of the Action Plan. Taylor distributed the draft prior to the meeting for Council review. A good portion of the discussion focused on the concern that the legislative effort associated with the Action Plan seems to be too narrowly focused and not considering alternative approaches to codifying the plan.

Pugh asked about the origin of the letter.

Bill Taylor explained that the letter was follow-up form the August 2007 Council meeting in Alaska where an Action Plan Board delegation met with the Council. At that meeting, Chairman Taylor indicated that there would be a follow-up letter. Taylor had also indicated that a letter was forthcoming at a Fish Habitat Board meeting in the fall of 2007.

Horton stated that BASS was supportive of the letter. He said that it raised concerns that others shared. It was the feeling of BASS that the National Fish Habitat Board needed to refocus on some of the original intent of those that first suggested the aquatic habitat plan approach: a focus on game species, while accruing benefits for all aquatic species.

Range suggested that the Council check in with the Action Plan legislative team.

John Sprague made a motion that the Council accept and transmit the final, after checking with the Action Plan Legislative Team. Jim Ranged seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Strategic Issues

Bill Taylor noted that the new Council would need to consider strategic issues to undertake as part of its 2-year work plan. He asked Council Coordinator Hobbs to distribute a summary from the fall 2005 issues session.

Council officer selection

Bill Taylor announced that there was agreement amongst Council members that Ryck Lydecker would serve as new Council Chair and Doug Boyd as Vice Chair for the 2007-2009 Council term.

Jim Range made a motion that the Council accept the officer nominations. John Sprague seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn meeting