



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

Donald R. van der Vaart
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
Conservation Fund Committee

FROM: Randy Gregory
Division of Marine Fisheries, NCDENR

DATE: May 19, 2015

SUBJECT: Conservation Fund Committee Meeting

The Marine Fisheries Commission's Conservation Fund Committee met on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the Division of Marine Fisheries Headquarters, 3441 Arendell Street, Morehead City, N.C. The Conservation Fund Committee meeting was held to review a proposal from the Division of Marine Fisheries for the James J. Francesconi Memorial Artificial Reef Project. The following attended:

Committee members: Mark Gorges - chair, and Kelly Darden
Mikey Daniels - absent

Staff: Randy Gregory, Dee Lupton, Garry Wright, Jason Peters, Steve Murphey, and Nancy Fish

Public: None

Chairman Mark Gorges called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes were approved by consensus.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUND BALANCE

Division staff lead Randy Gregory advised the Committee of the unobligated Conservation Fund balance approximately \$106,000.00. The Governor's Cup just began for 2015 raising the balance an additional \$2000.00. Chairman Gorges asked how the funds came from the Governor's Cup

program. Mr. Gregory explained that \$100.00 of the Governor's Cup registration fee goes to the Conservation Fund and the remaining \$25.00 goes to the Division to support the program.

PROPOSAL FOR THE JAMES J. FRANCESCONI MEMORIAL ARTIFICIAL REEF PROJECT

Garry Wright reviewed the proposal for the James J. Francesconi Memorial Artificial Reef Project requesting for \$10,000.00 from the Conservation Fund. Mr. Wright explained this project was to sink a 180 foot menhaden vessel which would honor Jim Francesconi, the late division artificial reef coordinator. The project is seeking many different funding sources including the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles license plate program to develop North Carolina's artificial reefs, the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament, an internet GoFundMe account and several private donors. Tim Mullane of American Marine Group has offered the vessel at an estimated cost of \$115,000, which is a sizeable price reduction compared to recently sunken vessels. The vessel will be sunk at AR-330 located approximately 12 nautical miles SW of Beaufort Inlet with a July/August 2015 deployment.

**Mark Gorges moved to send the James J. Francesconi Memorial Artificial Reef Project with funding up to \$10,000.00 forward to the Marine Fisheries Commission for consideration, seconded by Kelly Darden.
Motion carries 2-0.**

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Cc: Catherine Blum Jess Hawkins Jerry Schill
Mike Bulleri Brad Knott Gerry Smith
Scott Conklin Dee Lupton District Managers
Dick Brame Nancy Marlette Committee Staff Members
Louis Daniel Lauren Morris Marine Patrol Captains
Charlotte Dexter Phillip Reynolds Section Chiefs