

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, December 1, 2020 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting Via GoToMeeting

MAC Members Present: D. Swygert, E. Holder, C. Woods, P. Brown, P. Keener, R. Dukes

MAC Members Absent: B. Rose, J. Massey

DNR Staff: Maier, Keppler, Denson, Perkinson, Jenkins, Darden, Snoots, Binz, Prochaska, Ingle, Weeks, A. Watson, E. Levesque, D. Sanger, PKS, McDonough, Kinsella

Guests: Chaplain Jeff Shealy

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert called the meeting to order

2. Housekeeping- Abi Prochaska:

Abi reviewed the processes for those attending via Virtual Meeting.

3. Invocation- Pastor Jeff Shealy:

Pastor Shealy led the Invocation for the meeting.

4. Pledge of Allegiance- Phil Maier:

Deputy Director Maier led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes (September 2020) P. Keener made a motion to approve the minutes, C. Woods 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

6. Introduction of Guests/Public Comments: Erin Weeks: N/A

7. Reports:

- **Role of External Funding in Research & Outreach-Dr. Mike Denson/Blaik Keppler:**

M. Denson (MRRI Director) reviewed the MRRI arm of the Division, and the various funding sources the Research Section receives: State Appropriated, Federal Grants, License Revenue, Contractual and Donations. 78% of MRRI funding is through Federal Grants which requires ingenuity and perseverance to acquire an ever-shrinking pool of available grants. Staff are continually chasing new funds to maintain the grants and research they are committed to.

B. Keppler (Coastal Reserves and Outreach Director) reviewed CRO's mission statement within the Marine Division and all of the programs housed therein. Blaik noted that the bulk of their funding is Federal and State. They have a lot of "pass through" funding – they come in and are dispersed back out quickly. They do not necessarily help with the day-to-day operational funding needed. They utilize Volunteer Time (up to 26%

of their budget) as a non-traditional source of funding and can be used as match against grants. She agreed that Staff are very nimble at securing and sourcing funding.

- **Update on MRD's Flounder Outreach Efforts – Matt Perkinson:**

Matt brought the Committee up to speed on all the outreach efforts on Flounder. The survey had generous response from the public garnering over 2,000 returns. He and Staff have been travelling the state in person and virtually visiting fishing clinics. Mel Bell and Joey Ballenger hosted a webinar taking the public through Management Plans and answered questions. Several hundred people attended the webinar. Staff are currently working on a new Flounder landing page on the SCDNR website to encapsulate all information for the public in one place.

Ms. Keener suggested partnering w/the Aquarium for an outreach event.

8. Deputy Director Comments – Phil Maier:

D.D. Maier's comments included:

- Marine Advisory Committee member Fred Rourke has resigned from the Committee
- He mentioned the formation of a MRD Morale Task Force (Each Division in the Agency will have their own)
- CCA donated transmitters and received for Cobia which we are very grateful
- OFM Staff have been diligently working on the C.A.R.E.S. Act fund distributions to Commercial fisherman – Especially Chris McDonough. \$1.1million has been allocated thus far
- Flounder legislation is moving forward
- Cobia Management- a bill was pre filed from last year moving Federal-based management to State- based management.

9. Date, Place & Time of Next Meeting – Chairman Swygert:

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Friday, March 26th, place TBD.

10. Adjourn – Chairman Swygert:

Chairman Swygert adjourned the meeting at 11:50.