



Secretary's Office

Susan Lema



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) Board of Directors meets monthly. In order to keep all members apprised of Board business I will report here when appropriate. It is important to note that not all business will be reported here since there are often issues dealing with individual members and privacy will always be protected. Also, some Board business that doesn't result in any action won't be printed.

RISAA Board of Directors April 20, 2021 Meeting Summary

FINANCIAL REPORTS

• **Treasurer's Reports**

Treasurer **Peter O'Biso** presented reports for the following:

- RISAA checking and savings accounts
- Foundation checking and savings accounts
- Foundation scholarship fund

• **Investments**

- Reviewed investments funds as of March 31.

COMMUNICATIONS

• **Warwick Planning Dept.**

- Approved a request to send a letter of support in the city's to obtain a grant to help restore the Conimicut Park & lighthouse

• **Salt Ponds Coalition**

- Approved annual donation to the Coalition for their work on the salt ponds

• **Rocky Point Pier**

- Approved sending a letter of support for House bill H.6191 to name the fishing pier at Rocky Point State Park in honor of Larry Mouradjian.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Saltwater License Plates**

Steve Medeiros and **Rich Hittinger** updated the Board on the status of the plates. Matching bills had been introduced in the R.I. House and Senate that would reduce the required number of plates from 600 to 150 if the organization would submit an additional fee of \$3,000 to help the DMV pay for the plates - which we would.

Hearings was held in both House and Senate committees, and after head of the RI DMV objected, both bills were "held for study."

Medeiros and Hittinger met with Senator Stephen Archambault, who was prime sponsor for us on the original and subsequent bills and discussed how we might, with his help, move the bill forward, perhaps by offering more initial funding.

They also met with John Howell, regarding the House bill prime sponsor of Rep. Evan Shanley. John is head of the Rocky Point Foundation which also has a special plate being held up and is part of the two bills. John will contact Rep. Shanley.

NEW BUSINESS

• **The board formally approved submitting the following formal letters.** (All had been approved via email since submission

deadlines occurred prior to the actual Board meeting)

The contents of the letters were also sent to RISAA membership via email

* **Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment**

Approved submission of letter to Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

* **Draft South Fork Wind Farm EIS**

Approved submission of RISAA comments/options to BOEM.

* **US Dept. of Commerce Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad**

Approved submission of RISAA comments.

• **R.I. House Bill H.6252 by Rep. D.Ruggiero**

The Board all read the contents of this bill, formally titled "Legislative Commission to Study the Effects and Procedures for Reorganization of the CRMC". The bill names the "president of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association" as one of the Commission members. It was agreed that, should the bill pass and the Commission be created, we would participate.

GOOD FO THE ORDER

• **Quarterly Meetings**

Steve Medeiros discussed with the Board the fact that conducting quarterly meetings have become nearly impossible since covid forced meetings online. He noted that, in the past 20 years, quarterly meetings were held after the seminars each March, June and September, and even though there was over 100 members in attendance for the seminar, when the quarterly meeting started the membership would all be gone except for the board members and perhaps 6-10 members. By 2019, there were even fewer members remaining.

Suggesting that since all members now keep up to date with the RISAA news magazine and our emails, that perhaps the quarterly meetings have become obsolete.

The board agreed to send this issue to the By-Laws Committee to come up with language that would

- eliminate the quarterly meeting requirement
- still require the Annual Meeting every December
- specify that Board of Directors monthly meeting summaries be shared with the membership.

The By-Laws Committee's proposed language would then need Board approval, and per By-Laws, be published to the full membership as proposed, with the option for the membership to vote to approve or deny a change.