

SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board of Directors
Meeting Thursday, February 9,2023
Administration Building Conference Room
Marine Resources Division, Charleston, SC

GCAB Members Present: J. Kohl, S. Holder, B. Gressette, J. Hill, R. Rodelsperger, T. Gredick, H. McAlheny, W. Frierson, J. Reed

GCAB Members by Virtual: B. Garmany, D. Jennings, B. McClam, C. Sanders

GCAB Members Absent: S. Mungo, J. Ives, C. Oxner

DNR Staff Present: A. Dukes, B. Keppler, E. Gooding, M. Ingle, Dyar, LaDue

Guests: C. Rhodes, J. Goller, A. Taylor, B. Anderson (virtual), F. Bergen, B. Harrison, W. Jenkins

Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chairman Hill:

Vice Chairman Hill called the meeting to order. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2023. **B. Gressette made a motion to approve the November 2022 minutes S. Holder 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment: J. Goller, A. Taylor, & W. Jenkins with Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund thanked the Board for their support for the upcoming H.H. Gala and appealed for an offshore trip for the Gala. F. Bergen thanked the board for the opportunity to serve 2 terms on the GCAB.

D.D. Comments - B. Keppler:

- Ms. Keppler thanked the Board for their support for the Wildlife Gala and Hampton Fund.
- Provided an update on Flounder Stocking program.
- Informed the Board of the work the Division is doing on the Blue Crab Fishery with the Legislature for possible regulation changes.
- Reviewed MRD's FY2024 Budget requests focusing on recruitment and retention of Staff and Infrastructure needs.

Tournament Committee Report:

Elizabeth reviewed the meeting summary document for both the T.C. and the Tournament Directors meetings held in January. The summaries included: Bohicket raised entry fees, CBC 25th anniversary, New Edisto Tournament Director, Reel Time Apps, Mate of the Year selection. criteria/committee, Series 35th year anniversary ideas, and HMY qualifying tournament.

Old Business – T. Gredick:

The Sponsorship Sub-Committee, created to review and suggest possible changes to the sponsor levels and associated benefits, provided the Board with a preliminary report. The Board requested the Sub-Committee continue to progress. **A motion was made by W. Frierson and 2nd by T. Gredick for 50% in sponsorship in 2023.**

New Business:

- AB Membership:

A motion was made by J. Khol and 2nd by W. Frierson to nominate and approve Stokely Holder to serve as the Chairman of the GCAB. The motion was approved unanimously pending DNR Board approval.

Vice Chairman John Hill will continue to serve in this role.

There are (3) 2024 Advisory Board vacancies. 1 vacancy is already approved (Miles Herring), 1 nomination provided (Diedre Menefee), and one needed. W. Frierson made a motion to approve Deidre Menefee's nomination to the AB Board. T. Gredick 2nd, motion was approved unanimously pending DNR Board approval.

- 2023 Series Discussion:

Staff presented the plans to highlight the 35th Series Anniversary by focusing on the conservation achievements over the years. Plans include social media coverage, magazine articles and performance shirts for all participants. Staff requested AB members to provide additional ideas.

- Budget:

Amy reviewed the 2022 final expenditures with the Board. T. Gredick requested that any funds specific to other projects be displayed as a different line item.

Amy presented the 2023 proposed expenditures. Discussions ensued regarding the Buckskin Billfish and Real Time App proposals. Additionally, proposed expenditures were increased in 3 categories by the Board: Salaries and Fringe, Awards Banquet and Merchandise. The total proposed expenditures were \$116,400. A motion was made by T. Gredick to approve the revised 2023 expenditures: S. Holder 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

During the proposed expenditures discussion AB members requested Staff review and edit with DNR Legal as necessary, the terms associated with the Series for media content and the contracts with the Series Tournaments, thus ensuring content protection for the Series. A motion was made by B. Gressette and 2nd by Holly McAlhany to update the Series contracts between the GC/DNR and the tournaments, with legal counsel advice, to incorporate language to ensure that if a tournament is no longer under a contractual agreement, they must cease in using all Series related materials. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff reviewed the 2023 SCGC Sponsorship pledges to date and the complete list of potential sponsors.

Stokely Holder volunteered to review the 2022 Draft Annual Report prior to submitting to the DNR Board for approval. A motion was made by B. Gressette to accept the 2022 Annual report post review by S. Holder for final ratification by the DNR Board. J. Kohl 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

The HMY Qualifying Tournament requested and were granted to modify the tournament from the previously approved July date to May 18, 2023. T. Gredick made a motion to move HMY Qualifying date to May 18th, 2023. B. Gressette 2nd – motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment – Vice Chairman Hill:

The next scheduled meeting of the GCAB is Tuesday, September 11, 2023. Chairman Hill adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.