

MARYLAND BOAT ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

May 19, 2020

Attendees: Thornell Jones (Chair), Jon Sheller, Joe Hellner, Ramona Trovato, Steve Kling, Chris Parlin, Robin Allison, Coles Marsh, Russ Dwyer, Bill Anderson, Ann Williams, Mike Simonsen, Jeannine Moaney, Lt. Sanchez, Dr. Joe Love, Emily Vainieri, and Eric Null

Called to Order: Mr. Jones called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then explained the role of the Boat Act Advisory Committee.

Approval of Minutes for March 12, 2020.- Mr. Jones called each member to approve the minutes. The committee unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Mr. Simonsen reviewed and showed a PowerPoint presentation of the following regulatory requests that he received prior to March 12, 2020:

- A. Naval Academy Sailing (Anne Arundel) – Severn River – 6- knots speed limit at all times
- B. Upper Harris Creek (Talbot) – East of Cummings Creek – 6 knots at all times.
- C. Deep Creek Lake (Garrett) – North Glade Cove – 6 knots at all times.

Committee Topics:

- A. Days Cove – Largemouth Bass Sportfishing Sanctioned Tournament - Dr. Love talked with the conservation director and the issues have not changed. This information was shared with the Secretary's office. The area was first used for bass fishing. Later, it expanded for bass fishing, kayakers and boaters. A 6-knot speed limit was put in place due to safety. They wanted to do a regulation that would exceed the speed limit on the weekends during the fishing season (April-October). However, the regulation stands at no change. Mr. Jones mentioned people are acting as if the regulation changed. Mr. Kling said it should be arranged that the Fishing and Boating staff communicates with the bass community and put out signage. It is not a crisis like people are making it out to be. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Simonsen to read the letter from the teacher. Dr. Love noted this minimum speed limit is recent, not many are aware of this change. The bass tournament people follow the rules. The out-of-town people don't know the rules. They see the bass boats in a tournament going fast and they want to do the same thing. Mrs. Allison asked how often do they want fishing tournaments? Dr. Love stated permitted tournaments have ten or more boats. They had five-six the last three years with 15-30 boats from April-September. Mr. Jones said the

- Committee needs to visit this area. Mr. Hellner suggested that the two groups get together for a regulatory proposal. Mr. Jones agreed and stated that the out-of-townners needed to be educated.
- B. Public Evening Meeting (Crisfield) – Mr. Jones said the Committee needs to make a decision on a timeframe. Mr. Anderson stated that when public meetings are held, it is traditional to make sure we are consistent. Public meetings are normally held at 6 or 7 p.m. There should be plenty of advanced warnings, according to the Open Meeting Act. The decision could be re-routed. They may decide to take action. Mr. Jones suggested that we ensure everyone can attend. Mr. Anderson mentioned that a quick poll should be taken regarding dates and times and we need to get back to the people. Mr. Simonsen recommended making a decisive judgement. Mr. Jones gave the Committee thirty (30) days to have this information.
 - C. Status: Request for Boat Regulation Change Petition Form – Mr. Jones suggested getting a sub-committee to update the form. Mr. Kling said Mrs. Craig had taken the lead. However, he will follow-up with her. He asked if anyone wanted to assist to let him know. Mr. Hellner and Mr. Simonsen volunteered to do so.

New Business:

- A. Officer-at-Large Vacancy – Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Pepe resigned. He was appointed in January 2020 to become the Officer-at-Large. Mr. Pepe should be recognized for the great job he has done serving. A committee will be put together to select a new officer. There will be a private meeting to select prior to the next meeting.
- B. Observer Regulation Amendment/MD State – Every vessel towing a person(s) on water-skis, or any other device must have on board, in addition to the operator, an observer at least 12 years of age or boat equipped with a wide angle mirror. Mr. Kling stated this was not the time to get into this. It sounded like Mr. Simonsen was advocating.
- C. Riva Road Bridge across the South River (Anne Arundel) – The petitioner wants the area surrounding the bridge to be 6-knots at all times. Mr. Kling mentioned this bridge was recently considered. He asked Mr. Simonsen to check to see if it is within the three-year window.
- D. Tred Avon River (Talbot) – North Fork, 6 knots at all times – The petitioner is requesting to position three buoys at the entrance of Jacks Creek and ending at Easton Point Landing.
- E. Mill Creek & Martin's Cove (Anne Arundel) – The petitioner wants to restore the previous demarcation boundary and combine both areas. Mr. Kling stated he needs more clarification. There has been several requests regarding Mill Creek within the past ten years. There was a buoy in the area that was picked up and removed. It was then said it was there originally. Mr. Parlin agreed and said it was the case of they thought that was the line. Mr. Simonsen noted this is the same petitioner that started this ten years ago Mr. Jones said this needs to be looked into.

- F. Cool Spring Cove (Anne Arundel) – Magothy River – Forked Creek – The petitioner requests moving the beginning of the 6-knot speed north approximately 400.28 feet.- Mr. Hellner asked what is the previous location of the marker and is it from the petitioner? Mr. Simonsen said the present location is the 6-knot boundary and the petitioner wants it moved.
- G. Public Comments – Mr. Donald Parker made a couple suggestions regarding the bass fishing tournament. He said they could use systems like other states. They put flashing lights on bridges to tell people to watch out. His example was an area that has live shooting going on. Lights flash on the bridge, sirens go off, and announcements are made to warn people. The second suggestion is the USCG AIS which is a system used to reduce accidents. It views marine traffic in the area and is seen by traffic.
- H. Reappointment Letters – Mr. Parlin said he thinks it is a perception thing for us. It sends a message to the Boat Act saying they are not important. Mr. Anderson stated the policy of the State of Maryland says when appointed, the member serves until he resigns or is terminated. It is consistent with the commissions of the Department of Natural Resources. It is the policy not the law. He said it is like having the public meetings in the evenings. It is making all commissions consistent.
- I. Next meeting – October 1 at 6 p.m. Mr. Parlin noted we need to be organized. Each area should have its own meeting time. Mr. Jones mentioned that he will be working with Mr. Simonsen on the Crisfield meeting and he wants the field trips to be scheduled soon.
- J. Mr. Simonsen asked the Committee to have a moment of silence for the COVID-19 victims.
- K. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.