

# MARYLAND BOAT ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETING SUMMARY

March 12, 2020

**Attendees:** Robin Allison, Joe Hellner, Thornell Jones, Steve Kling, Fred Levitan, Chris Parlin, Jon Sheller, Bob Nickel (conference call), Bill Anderson, Ann Williams, Mike Simonsen, Jeannine Moaney, Citizens – Amy Craig and John Pepe

**Called to Order:** Mr. Jones (Chair) called the meeting to order and asked the committee to introduce themselves.

### **Old Business:**

Approval of Minutes for February 4, 2020 - A correction was made in the D section of New Business regarding the Chairman's name. Mr. Kling made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Hellner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Simonsen, State Liaison, discussed the following four regulatory requests received January 1 – March 9, 2020.

- A. REVISED Naval Academy – All-time 6-knot speed limit restriction (Severn River 220-yard border from the Naval Academy seawall). A power point presentation was shown. Commander Kremer and Lt. Sanchez-Maldonado were present. Mr. Jones informed the guests they would have their time to speak at the public comment meeting. Mr. Sheller asked what is the distance from Triton Point to the opposite shore of the Severn River? Commander Kremer stated it was 600 feet. Mr. Jones mentioned that will be taken under advisement. Commander Kremer went on to say that he used to sail in that area in the 90s. As years passed, it got crowded. DNR probably received three-four proposals. There is no real safe lane for people who operate at a slower speed.
- B. Upper Harris Creek (Talbot County) – All-time 6-knot speed limit, east of Cummings Creek. Boats are currently traveling at a high rate of speed all the time. Mr. Sheller asked if this was an amended request or an original one. Mr. Simonsen did not know but would find out. Mr. Sheller mentioned he just wanted to know the status.
- C. Days Cove: Largemouth Bass Sportfishing Sanctioned Tournament – Dr. Joseph Love, Freshwater Fisheries Program DNR Permit Process, was at another meeting. The focus was to segregate the area to have access to bass fishing. Mr. Jones stated this should be a conversation about the possibilities of having the tournament without any negativity. Mr. Simonsen mentioned that he would like the two groups to get together and work out this issue. Mrs. Allison asked is Dr. Love the only one in his support team proposing this? Mr. Simonsen said he works for DNR. Mrs. Allison then asked how many boats are allowed in the tournament that would not overrun the

- lake? Mr. Simonsen said that was a good question, but he did not know. Mrs. Allison said this should be looked at hard because it is a small area. Bass fishing was a big deal when she was running a tug on the Potomac. Mr. Sheller asked if there are aquatic grasses in this lake? Mr. Simonsen said yes and it is very shallow. He then asked were we supposed to get boaters to not leave tracks? Mr. Simonsen mentioned that on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Crescent Yacht Club, kayakers caused the same amount of damage. Mr. Kling noted that he was the only “no” vote. Mrs. Williams mentioned that according to regulation 08.18.01.02, if a tournament is a valid request, the speed limit is already exempt, if they get a coast guard sanctioned approval. This includes bass tournaments. Mr. Parlin asked if it would cover practice days leading up to the tournament? Mrs. Williams said only if it is put in the coast guard permit. Mr. Simonsen thanked Mrs. Williams and Mr. Parlin.
- D. Deep Creek Lake – North Glade Cove (Ski Association, Inc.) – Mr. Eric Null, Lake Manager. Mr. Null was appointed by the Governor to be on the Policy Review Board. He forwarded all the minutes pertaining to this issue. This cove is in the area of the largest homeowners association which has 250 units. North Glade Cove is a popular cove to moor, kayak and paddle. However, residents have expressed the cove is narrow. The Policy Review Board had a meeting last year and this cove meets the criteria for a minimum wake zone. The Board voted and sent the proposed regulation to BAAC to extend the wake zone within the cove. Mr. Null mentioned that in mid-May to mid-September, they inspect over 4,000 boats a year and 6,000 – 7,000 boats during peak season. He said Friday or Saturday afternoon would be a great time for a public meeting. Mr. Simonsen asked where does the stumps start? Mr. Null responded they start quite a ways behind Ski Valley. There are plenty of danger buoys out. Mr. Parlin mentioned these are typically zones to environmentally sensitive areas. He asked was there a reason he was asking for a minimum wake and not a 6-knot speed zone? Mr. Null said it is historically how it is here. Mr. Nickel said that he was against the original petition. However, it now makes sense. The meeting should be on a Saturday evening. There would probably be a large showing of homeowners. Mrs. Allison mentioned to Mr. Nickel about the jet-ski issue in the past on the lake. She asked does this affect this problem at all. Mr. Nickel said no. They get the traffic out there, but it is not going to hurt it at all. Mr. Jones asked if this problem is caused by boat wakes? Mr. Nickel said of course. The current regulation will have to be enforced. It is a popular cove especially for skiers. He said there’s wake at his dock. Mr. Jones thanked him.

### **Committee Topics:**

- A. Secondary Public Evening Meeting – Crisfield, Maryland. Provide citizens an opportunity to share their feedback. Little Annemessex River – in the area west of the Harbor Lights “11” to “11A”. Mr. Jones asked the committee if they had any questions and/or comments. He stated that if we go back to hold a meeting where everyone agreed and it was advertised like the other meeting, it seems like we are opening a can of worms. Mr. Kling said he did not think it was like opening a can of worms. We were told to go

back and hold another meeting. If it happened other times, he could see looking into things, but this is just one time. Mr. Sheller mentioned the letter from the Secretary to Senator Carozza regarding the affected area should be read aloud. Mr. Jones said a date should be set for the meeting. Mr. Simonsen noted the library is not open. He will contact the manager and may be able to have the meeting in the fall. George O'Donnell can contact the watermen. Mr. Jones noted that we should hold on setting a date due to the virus.

- B. Membership Renewal – Mr. Kling mentioned there are four valuable members who have not been reappointed. Mr. Anderson noted that when asked to serve, you are on the committee until asked not to serve. Do we continue looking at committees to see what to do? Yes, all the time. Looking at committees/commissions to see if they operate the same way, have appropriate presentation – diverse members. We will see other adjustments as time goes. Very few commissions meet in the mornings or afternoons because working people need to show. No changes. Everyone continues to serve. Mr. Sheller mentioned that if they are seeking members of diverse groups, the Chesapeake Paddlers Association would possibly be receptive to becoming involved. Mr. Simonsen said Mrs. Craig sent information regarding a female paddler. Also, Mr. Anderson is looking at a possible candidate in the Sportfishing group.
- C. Advertising – Mr. Anderson said no one reads the newspaper. Everything is on the web. Adjustments will be made as far as the social media. Mr. Simonson stated that regulation changes are posted in the newspapers, as we are required to run ads. There is an email correspondence list. Mr. Jones asked if an email address goes on a buoy. Mrs. Williams said no, just the phone number. Mrs. Allison suggested the use of the Spin Sheet Group, which has free advertising.
- D. Regulatory Requests - In updating regulatory requests, Mr. Sheller proposed to form a sub-committee to inform petitioners what the committee is looking for. Mr. Kling said Mrs. Craig had already drafted a new version and it was sent to some people and should be underway. Mrs. Allison asked if there was a reason why we only have one person requesting a request change instead of ten or more people in the neighborhood. Mr. Kling said we use to need 25 names, but the AG's office said only one is needed now. Mr. Hellner asked if the committee could discuss the updated regulatory request form at the next meeting. Mr. Simonsen mentioned April 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day for accepting regulatory requests. He will be in contact with Mr. Jones, Mr. Pepe and Mr. Sheller regarding an October meeting for public testimony.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2020. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.