

Non-Motorized Vessel Registration Subcommittee Meeting Summary September 14, 2006

Members Present: Becky Bragg, Bill Griswold, Richard Jones, Jessica Koelsch, Peggy Mathews, Lisa Neal (Chair), David Ray

Facilitator: Brett Boston

Public and Staff: Bill Allbright, Brack Barker, Bonnie Basham, Gwen Beatty, John Edwards, Craig Fenner, Shelly Gurr, Nigel Hood, Richard Moore, Willie Puz, Leslie Scovill, John Sprague, Ken Stead, Glennis Williams

Facts and Figures for Consideration

Captain Richard Moore presented information for the subcommittee. The presentation, Facts and Figures for Consideration, will be available on the BAC portion of the FWC web site.

Key Issues

The following key issues were identified and listed during the initial discussion.

- Register or not
- Is there a cost to the government
- One time fee at purchase
- User fees for use of infrastructure
- Livery "exclusions" (lump-sum cost)
- ID of community
- Burden on public to register
- Required boater education for all
- Types
- Age of vessel
- Trail of monies and benefit
- If registration – there is no titling for these vessels
- No titling
- FL number not practical (material of vessel, space on craft)
- Stickers inside vessel
- No FL number then no federal funding
- Burden on casual users
- Multiple year registration
- Placard – not on vessel
- Recognize little environmental impact

Public Comments

Bonnie Basham – look at PFD's; urges registration

John Edwards – against registration; what is the reason for charging

Gwen Beatty – opposed to registration; undue burden

Glenn Williams – against registration; do not need infrastructure

Brack Barker – will impact tourist industry; titling issue

Ken Stead – supports registration; access is difficult

John Sprague – shortage of law enforcement; all need to pay

Leslie Scoville – against registration; they sponsor river clean up days

Craig Fennell – against registration; discriminatory

Additional Issues

PFD wear needs to be discussed
Conflicting uses of the waterways
Boater education
Determine constitutionality of registering all vessels

Subcommittee Comments and Motions

If FWC determines a need for money then look at user fee instead. Drop registration issue and go more toward user fee; visit other things. (Neal)

Three year registration fee; fees go to LE, options for liveries. (Mathews)

Register all non-powered vessels 8' and over, numbered as per USCG, 60% to FWC infrastructure, 20% to sailboat infrastructure, 20% to other non-motorized boat infrastructure, 8' and over to be titled. (Ray)

Non-motorized vessels regardless of size flat fee, no titling, multi-year registration, multi-boat pricing, if % go to 50% LE and 50% other infrastructure, no numbers on racing or composite material boats. (Koelsch)

One time fee; consider titling law change also. (Jones)

Need firm research (needs analysis) that indicates what the needs really are. (Neal)

Determine constitutionality of registering all vessels; there will not be an issue regarding tourists. (Ray)

Against; concerned about a boating license & user fees (Bragg)

Motion (Ray, seconded Griswold)

Register all (non-motorized, excluding watertoys) vessels 8 feet and above vote – 3 in favor (Ray, Mathews, Griswold), 4 opposed (Jones, Neal, Bragg, Koelsch) (Seguna opposed based on his letter read into the minutes.)

USER FEES

Identify need first (Neal)

Motion (Koelsch, no second)

The subcommittee supports the development or implementation of user fees if the need is identified.

Motion (Ray, seconded Griswold)

If the BAC considers a registration fee, it is recommended that it be a three year fee (provided time period does not affect federal funding) and that dollars be broken into specific categories including FWC infrastructure as well as non-motorized vessel uses.

Amendment to add livery break (multi-user discount) Motion Griswold, seconded Mathews) Vote on amendment – 3 in favor (Griswold, Ray, Mathews), 2 opposed (Jones, Bragg), 1 abstained (Koelsch)
Motion voted down 4-3

Motion (Mathews, no second)

All votes and all recommendations be presented to the BAC in December.

Motion (Ray, seconded Mathews)

The subcommittee recommends that the BAC encourage the FWC to pursue a final legal determination to determine the constitutionality of the exemptions to some vessels having to be registered. – 3 in favor, 4 opposed

Motion (Koelsch, no second)

Any future changes to PFD laws also apply to non-motorized boats.

Motion (Griswold, no second)

In the state of Florida require PFDs for children under 13 on boats less than 26 feet (already voted in favor by BAC).

Motion (Ray, seconded Mathews)

Subcommittee recommends to the BAC that non-powered vessel operator be included in the education requirements and that the education for all vessels include a non-powered vessel component. vote: 4 in favor (Koelsch, Ray, Mathews, Griswold) - 2 opposed (Bragg, Jones)

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.