

23 Apr 2015

Meeting Minutes #7: Teleconference 23 Apr 2015 Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA)

**General.** Meeting #7 was conducted on 23 Apr via teleconference. All attendees introduced themselves.

**VSSA Milestones / Calendar.** John Bello drafted some top level milestones to get the VSSA from where we are now to fully standing up the organization. After some discussion, the following was agreed to by the board members. This represents a general timeline, subject to change as we move forward:

5/1/15 – Logo ('s) finalized  
5/15/15 – Meeting to draft by laws.  
5/30/15 – By laws drafted  
6/1/15 – Articles of Incorporation filed with Virginia.  
6/15/15 – By laws finalized  
7/1/15 – Election of officers  
7/1/15 – Web site up  
7/15/15 – 501c3 application filed with IRS  
8/1/15 – Bank Account opened  
8/15/15 – Operating budget drafted  
9/1/15 – Begin Membership Drive and solicitation of members  
9/1/15 – Updated Activity Calendar published

**Website.** The VSSA board voted to create 2 websites to support VSSA. [joinvssa.org](http://joinvssa.org) and [ifishva.org](http://ifishva.org) domains have been purchased to support the VSSA. Jerry Aycock has agreed to initially host and do the web design the VSSA. A facebook group has been created to support the VSSA: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lfishVA/>. Once the logo and mission statement have been approved by the board the websites be published reflecting the approved information.

**Mission Statement.** A mission statement must be developed and approved before the VSSA moves too far down the road. The mission statement will be used as the basis for all supporting documents of the VSSA including the by-laws. Mike put together a draft mission statement (see enclosure). The board will review and discuss at the 30 April meeting.

**Logo Designs.** Several great logo designs have been submitted. The leading candidates are enclosed. A poll to solicit comments are on [facebook](#), [tidalfish](#), and [tidewater fishing](#). Board members will be requested to vote on which logo should represent the VSSA at the 30 Apr meeting.

**By-Laws.** The VSSA by-laws need to be drafted and approved in the very near future. The board discussed that the best approach is a face-to-face meeting of at least 3-5

hours to get a solid draft put together. The board discussed a good central location is Richmond. Kevin Smith is requested to find a venue in Richmond for board members to meet to draft the by-laws. The week after Mother's Day (11-15 May) is preferred. Once the venue is set, board members that are available should attend the meeting. The intent to develop a solid first draft of the by-laws to staff with the full VSSA for comment.

**Meeting minutes.** To keep everyone updated on the meeting minutes, the minutes from all VSSA meetings have been archived onto this temporary file share site: <https://app.box.com/VSSA>. If anyone wants to stay informed via email of the progress of the VSSA, send an email to [keepvafishing@averys.net](mailto:keepvafishing@averys.net)

**Way Ahead.** VSSA meeting #8 will be **Thursday, 30 Apr 2015 7 – 8 pm.** Dial in number: 712-775-7031, Meeting ID code: 268-591-500. Topics will include details for the by-laws meeting, logo design, review calendar, and mission statement.

## **Draft - VSSA Mission Statement – Draft**

The Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA) was formed in 2015 by a group of dedicated, saltwater recreational anglers in Virginia with the desire to organize all Virginian saltwater anglers into a non-profit 501c3 association. The VSSA main function is to represent the interests of Virginia saltwater anglers providing a strong voice in all matters relating to saltwater fish safeguarding the right to fish recreationally. The VSSA shall:

- Represent the interest of Virginia's recreational saltwater anglers by safeguarding the right to fish.
- Communicate with all members of the VSSA in both directions. Communication will be a high priority to ensure input is received from VSSA members to represent those positions of anglers. Keep all members informed of all fishery related issue and represent the positions of VSSA member at the various local, state, and federal levels.
- Protect Virginia marine, boat and tackle industry jobs.
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of Virginia's fisheries. Fight hard against unsustainable and damaging fishing such as any fishing done on an industrial scale that damages our fishery and ecosystem.
- Support and maintain communication with local Virginia fishing clubs so they remain strong.

Logo #1



VIRGINIA **S**ALTWATER **S**PORTFISHING **A**SSOCIATION

Logo #2



Logo #3



Logo #4



Logo #5





Logo #6



**Logo #7**

