

9020. RESOLUTION 04-10 AUTHORIZING A LETTER OF REQUEST TO THE U. S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS FOR A STUDY TO REVITALIZE THE OYSTER INDUSTRY IN THE DELAWARE BAY. The Executive Director presented the following Resolution.

WHEREAS, the Oyster Industry Revitalization Task Force (“OIRTF”) has submitted to The Delaware River and Bay Authority (the “Authority”) a request to act as a Cooperating Agency for a three (3) year study (“Study”) of oyster production along the Delaware Bay in the States of Delaware and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Study is a joint initiative involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the New Jersey Oyster Industry, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Departments of Fish and Wildlife in Delaware and New Jersey and the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has also received support for the Study from the Delaware Shellfish Advisory Council, the New Jersey Shell Fisheries Council and various legislators in Delaware and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the USACE requests the Authority, as the Study’s Cooperating Agency, to provide them with a Letter of Request to conduct an investigation to revitalize the Oyster Industry in the Delaware Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Letter of Request does not obligate the Authority to the expenditure of any funds; and

WHEREAS, after the USACE conducts an investigation and prepares an Ecosystem Restoration Report it will prepare a Program Construction Agreement pursuant to which the Authority has the option to continue to serve as the Cooperating Agency by executing the same, which may obligate the Authority to fund up to \$50,000.00 a year for three (3) years; (80% of the funding may be in-kind services) or it may terminate its status as a Cooperating Agency and have no further obligation to the project; and

WHEREAS, the OIRTF estimates that the revitalization of the oyster industry in the Delaware Bay will result in a \$45 million dollar economic impact to the Regional Economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, with advice and consent of Counsel, is hereby authorized to send to the USACE a Letter of Request to initiate a Study to revitalize the Oyster Industry in the Delaware Bay.

Chairman Parkowski stated that this is a worthy project that will benefit both States. It was previously brought before the Economic Development Committee and a presentation was made at the last Budget & Finance meeting.

Commissioner Patterson noted that the Project will be good for both New Jersey and Delaware.

Resolution 04-10 was moved by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Koebig and was approved by a roll call vote of 11-0.