

**Virginia Scenic River Board
May 4, 2011
Hopewell Public Library
Hopewell, Virginia**

Virginia Scenic River Board Members Present

Richard G. Gibbons, Chair	Patricia A. Jackson, Vice Chair
David A. Johnson, DCR Director	Henry R. Broaddus
James G. Council	Ruth T. Dickerson
Jay Garner, III	Ellen Shepard
Porcher L. Taylor, Jr.	

Virginia Scenic River Board Members Not Present

Nicholas J. Graham	Edward Mullen
Mary Lily Nuckolls	Cardell C. Patillo, Sr.
Christopher B. Rivers	Wendell S. Walker
Christy Williams	

DCR Staff Present

Jeb Wilkinson, Chief Deputy Director	
Julie Buchanan	Lynn Crump
Michael Fletcher	Danette Poole

Others Present

Lou Lassiter, Chesterfield County
Beth Lewis, Southampton County
George Schanzenbacher, City of Colonial Heights

Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Gibbons called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from November 9, 2010

MOTION: Mr. Taylor moved that the minutes from the November 9, 2010 meeting of the Virginia Scenic River Board be approved as submitted by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Jackson

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Introductions and Welcome of New Members

Chairman Gibbons welcomed new Board members Jay Garner and Jim Council. He noted that Governor McDonnell also appointed Wendell S. Walker and Nicholas J. Graham to the Board. Mr. Walker and Mr. Graham were unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Gibbons noted that in 2010 the Board helped celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Scenic Rivers program. He said that the program and the year long effort was tremendous.

Mr. Gibbons noted that the first meeting of the Catoctin Scenic River Advisory Committee had been held in January. Mr. Gibbons and Ms. Crump attended.

Mr. Gibbons noted that he and Ms. Crump had attended a meeting of the of the Hopewell City Council and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to former Board member Wayne Walton.

Mr. Gibbons noted that the extension of the Appomattox River in Chesterfield County had been approved.

Mr. Gibbons said that he represented the Board on the James River Advisory Council. He distributed 2011 James River Days brochures.

Director's Report

Mr. Wilkinson gave the Director's report for Mr. Johnson, who was delayed in arriving.

Mr. Wilkinson said that the Agency had recently completed a management study. He noted that the major change would be that the Divisions of Soil and Water Conservation and Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance would be merged into a Division of Stormwater Management beginning June 1. He noted that he was currently the acting director of that new division and that a search had begun for a director. He noted also that a total of four senior managers in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation were retiring.

Mr. Wilkinson noted that in June the Department would be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Virginia State Park System and that August 7 would be the date of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Natural Heritage Program.

Planning and Recreation Resources Update

Mr. Gibbons asked Ms. Poole to give an update from the Division of Planning and Recreation Resources.

Ms. Pool said that the Department is in the process of updating 17 State Park Master Plans. Six were presented to the Board of Conservation and Recreation in March for their approval and recommendation to the Director. She said that staff would present an additional five in June and the remainder in October. Those include Master Plans for two new State Parks, Biscuit Run and Mayo River State Park.

Ms. Poole said that the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) is updated every five years. She said that staff are in the process of developing the next edition of the plan. The VOP is the comprehensive outdoor plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Johnson arrived and provided additional comments. He noted that Staunton River State Park had been hit by a tornado. Much damage was done and the park was closed for a month due to necessary cleanup and repairs.

Mr. Johnson noted that the key date for the 75th Anniversary of Virginia State Parks is June 18th. He noted that Governor McDonnell will be participating in the celebration at Hungry Mother on that date. Hungry Mother State Park is one of the original six State Parks opened in 1936.

Presentation of Certificates and Appreciation

On behalf of the Board and the Department Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Johnson presented the following Certificates of Appreciation.

City of Colonial Heights

IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT: Resulted in the designation of the Appomattox River from the Route 36 bridge crossing in the City of Petersburg and Colonial Heights to the junction with the James River. The City's support of an evaluation, followed by the City Council's resolution of support resulted in the submission of legislation formally extending the scenic designation of the river. Their actions to inform the public of the program led to a better understanding of the significance of the river and its value to the locality and State.

Chesterfield County

IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT: Resulted in extending the original Scenic River designation of the Appomattox River from the Route 36 bridge crossing in Chesterfield County and the City of Petersburg to the river's confluence with the James River. The

County's support of an evaluation, followed by the Board of Supervisors' Resolution of Support, resulted in the submission of legislation formally extending the Scenic River designation of the Appomattox. Their actions to inform the public of the program led to a better understanding of the significance of the river and its value to the locality and the State.

Southampton County

IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT: Resulted in the designation of the Nottoway River from Carey's Bridge (Route 653), and extends to the river's confluence with the already designate Blackwater River at the North Carolina line. Southampton County's support of an evaluation, followed by the Board of Supervisors resolution of support resulted in the submission of legislation formally extending the scenic designation of the river. Their actions to inform the public of the program led to a better understanding of the significance of the river and its value to the locality and State.

City of Petersburg

IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT: Resulted in the designation of the Appomattox River from the Route 36 bridge crossing in the City of Petersburg and Colonial Heights to the junction with the James River. The City's support of an evaluation, followed by the City Council's resolution of support resulted in the submission of legislation formally extending the scenic designation of the river. Their actions to inform the public of the program led to a better understanding of the significance of the river and its value to the locality and State.

The following certificates were presented at the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) celebration in Petersburg on May 25, 2011 by staff.

City of Hopewell

IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT: Resulted in the designation of the Appomattox River from the Route 36 bridge crossing in the City of Petersburg and Colonial Heights to the junction with the James River. The City's support of an evaluation, followed by the City Council's resolution of support resulted in the submission of legislation formally extending the scenic designation of the river. Their actions to inform the public of the program led to a better understanding of the significance of the river and its value to the locality and State.

Prince George County

IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT: Resulted in the designation of the Appomattox River from the Route 36 bridge crossing in the City of Petersburg and Colonial Heights to the junction with the James River. The County's support of an evaluation, followed by the Board of Supervisors resolution of support resulted in the submission of legislation formally extending the scenic designation of the river. Their actions to inform the public of the program led to a better understanding of the significance of the river and its value to the locality and State.

Mr. Gibbons noted that Certificates of Appreciation had also been prepared for outgoing Board members Amanda McCaulley, Robert Harrison and Ralph Moore.

A Certificate of Appreciation was also prepared for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for providing the tour of the extended portion of the Appomattox River.

IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICES AND ACTIONS THAT: Supported the conduct of the May 4, 2001 meeting providing a work boat and staff to visit the reach of the Appomattox River designated by the 2011 General Assembly. The Foundation provided their work boat at an earlier meeting which allowed the Board to be trained on the river evaluation process and conduct an evaluation of a portion of the river. The staff provided important information related to the Appomattox River and the James. This enhanced the understanding of the Board of the values and importance of the river resources and their contribution to the health, beauty and value of the Chesapeake Bay.

Review and Adoption of Bylaws

Mr. Gibbons noted that the Board Bylaws state that they are subject to review every two years.

MOTION: Ms. Jackson moved that the Scenic River Advisory Board approve the bylaws as written with the deletion of the physical address of the Board due to the upcoming move of the Department of Conservation and Recreation offices in Richmond.

SECOND: Mr. Broaddus

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Election of Officers

Mr. Gibbons noted that his term on the Board was expiring on June 30, 2011.

Mr. Taylor nominated Ms. Jackson to serve as Chairman of the Virginia Scenic River Board. Ms. Shepard seconded.

Mr. Broaddus moved that nominations be closed. Mr. Garner seconded. Ms. Jackson was elected unanimously to serve as Chair of the Virginia Scenic River Board.

Mr. Broaddus nominated Edward Mullen to serve as Vice Chair of the Virginia Scenic River Board. Mr. Taylor seconded. There were no further nominations and Mr. Mullen was elected unanimously to serve as Vice Chair of the Virginia Scenic River Board.

Scenic River Related Legislation

Mr. Johnson said that two Scenic River bills had passed the General Assembly without opposition. Those bills were the extensions of the Nottoway and Appomattox rivers.

Mr. Johnson noted that other legislation had eliminated the Lower James Scenic River Advisory Board. He noted that Board had been inactive for a number of years. He said that staff and the Board would need to give consideration to the existing designation of the Lower James.

Mr. Johnson said that the Department is currently working with the EPA regarding the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. He noted also that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is expected to approve the final proposed Stormwater Management Regulations later in the month.

Ms. Shepard noted that the City of Richmond now imposes a stormwater utility fee. She inquired if other localities do the same.

Mr. Johnson said that stormwater utility fees were common in the lower Hampton Roads area, Newport News and Hampton. He said that some Northern Virginia localities also impose stormwater utility fees.

Update on Scenic River Study Status

Ms. Crump gave an update regarding river studies and requests for information on the program, including the Mattaponi and the middle James Rivers.

Ms. Crump said that staff had completed almost a full study of the New River. This was done in conjunction with the National Committee on the New River at the Board's request. This is one of two watersheds that do not have river designations; the other is the York River Basin.

Ms. Crump informed the Board that she had received a request from Mecklenburg County to study the upper portion of the Meherrin River for extension of the designation that begins at the Brunswick County line. She is waiting for a confirming letter from Lunenburg County indicating their support for a study and designation. No time table has been set for the study.

Ms. Crump noted that when the Scenic River program began each river was required to have a designated Scenic River Advisory Board. These were eliminated with the establishment of a consolidated Virginia Scenic River Board in 2003.

The Director has the authority to establish new Scenic River Advisory Committees. Currently there are three local committees: The Falls of the James, Goose Creek, and Catoclin Creek.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Virginia Scenic River Board will be October 20, 2011. Tentative plans are to have the meeting on the New River in Grayson County.

Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Jackson
Chairman

David A. Johnson
DCR Director