

**Virginia Scenic River Board**  
**Thursday, April 22, 2004**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Jones Dining Hall ~ Virginia State University**

**Virginia Scenic River Board Members Present**

Richard G. Gibbons, Chair  
Henry R. Broaddus  
Dr. Ralph Hambrick  
Patricia A. Jackson  
Ralph L. Moore  
Porcher L. Taylor, Jr.

Joseph H. Maroon  
James A.L. Daniel  
Robert G. Harrison  
Shelton Miles, III  
Christopher B. Rivers  
Richard B. Taylor

**Virginia Scenic River Board Members Not Present**

Mark Merhige  
Cardell C. Patillo, Sr.

Mary Lily Nuckols  
Gordon Shelton

**Staff Present**

Leon E. App  
Lynn Crump  
Michael R. Fletcher

Linda J. Cox  
Lois del Bueno  
John R. Davy

**Others**

The Honorable Roslyn Dance, Major of Petersburg  
Dr. Eddie Moore, President, Virginia State University  
B. David Canada, City Manager, Petersburg  
Janit Potter, Friend of Chesterfield's Riverfront  
Kevin Kirby, City of Petersburg  
Victor Liu, Crater Planning District Commission  
William E. Trout, Appomattox Canal Society  
Nancy Trout, Appomattox Canal Society  
Wayne Walton – FOLAR, Hopewell Waterfront Development

**Call to Order**

Chairman Gibbons called the meeting to order and asked Porcher Taylor to introduce President Moore.

President Moore welcomed the Board to Virginia State University. He said the University is very proud of the river because it is part of the campus boundary and

campus lore. The school song begins with “High above the Appomattox.” Virginia State is also USDA’s center for water quality. Dr. Moore said that he knew that everytime a visitor came to campus, the university has made a new friend.

Chairman Gibbons asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Chairman Gibbons invited David Canada, Petersburg City Manager to address the Board. He thanked Virginia State and the City of Petersburg for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Canada welcomed Board members to Petersburg. He said that the City views the Appomattox River as one of their great resources. It provides white water, scenic views and history, particularly along the navigational canals and the mill canals.

Mr. Canada said that the City has tried to focus more on the river in the region. In the early 1980s there was an annexation suit with Prince George County. There has been a concerted effort to focus attention on the Appomattox and to introduce it as an economic development tool for the region.

The city has been involved in dredging to reestablish navigational channels. The city has also created a recreation authority that has taken a more active role in preserving the Appomattox River.

### **Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2003 Meeting**

MOTION: Mr. P.T. Taylor moved that the minutes of the November 13, 2003 meeting be approved as submitted.

SECOND: Dr. Hambrick

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adoption of Bylaws**

Mr. App reviewed the draft bylaws as submitted at the November meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Hambrick moved that the draft bylaws be adopted as submitted.

SECOND: Mr. Miles

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Maroon expressed thanks to the City of Petersburg and Virginia State University for hosting the meeting.

He reminded members that this Board replaces 18 Scenic River Advisory boards that existed at the local level. Many of these boards had not been active for some time. The legislation that created this Board also authorized the continuation of some of the local boards in a committee status. Ralph Hambrick is here as chair of the Falls of the James. The other committee is Goose Creek in Loudoun County. We have tentatively considered that location for our next meeting.

I would like to commend Dick Gibbons for being a very active chairman.

Mr. Maroon gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Department.

Mr. Maroon commented that, at the time of the meeting, the General Assembly had not reached a budget agreement.

Mr. Maroon referenced materials included in the packet, including a speech given by Secretary of Natural Resources W. Tayloe Murphy at the Environment Virginia 2004 conference held at VMI.

### **Scenic River Issue Reports**

Mr. Gibbons noted that in the past few months he had the opportunity to be involved in some relevant issues.

#### *Harvell Dam License Revocation*

Mr. Gibbons attended a meeting on behalf of the Board. The primary issue involving the Harvell dam was the fact that when it was originally built it had fish passage to allow the fish to swim upstream. About six years ago, the new owners enhanced the fish passage, but some of the requirements had not been completed.

The issue is whether the fish passage should be enhanced or the dam should be breached. A decision has not yet been reached.

*Rappahannock River/Embry Dam*

Mr. Gibbons gave a report on his attendance at the breaching of the Embry Dam.

*Potential Studies and Water Trails*

Mr. Davy said that a number of things had been happening since the last meeting. He said that the Department is tentatively planning to host a major "Rails to Trail" workshop in August. The workshop will be held in Southside Virginia.

Next year, DCR will be hosting a major blueways and greenways trail conference. Most likely this will be held in Roanoke.

Mr. Davy said that three potential studies for designation as scenic rivers include the Mattaponi, the Upper Appomattox and the South Fork of the Shenandoah.

Mr. Davy said that a portion of the New River located in Giles County where it flows into West Virginia is the first possible component for National Wild and Scenic River designatin in Virginia. Staff are looking at the entire stretch of the New River in Virginia. There is some interest into what the flows of the river would need to be to maintain it for recreation.

The James River Water trail runs from Richmond to the confluence with Hampton Roads.

The James and York River are part of the Governor's initiative for 2007 and the development of the Captain John Smith water trail. The goal is to develop the historical data as to where John Smith actually explored. Also staff are trying to locate the sites of the major Indian villages along this route and to determine the condition of the Bay at that time.

**Scenic River Committee Reports**

*Historic Falls of the James*

Dr. Hambrick gave a history of the Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee. He began with a quote from David D. Ryan:

*But for the river to survive in all its beauty and as the natural gift we must leave to future generations, the public is obligated to take care in how the river is used." The Falls of the James, 1975.*

Dr. R.B. Young helped get the designation for the river and served for 30 continous years as the chair. He still serves as an emeritus member and attends the meetings.

While the committee has no legal power, it has been successful in three ways.

- It has provided a forum for competing groups to bring their ideas and hash them out.
- The group has been a sounding board for the modification of plans.
- The committee has been an advocate.

Almost everything the Board/Committee has accomplished has been as a part of a network of organizations.

Currently the committee is working on a variety of things. There is a lot of development being discussed along the waterfront.

The Committee has raised some concern regarding the view shed.

#### *Goose Creek*

Ms. Crump said that the Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee is making plans for the fall. They will give a more thorough presentation at that meeting.

The committee is very involved and is allowed to review any planned proposal that comes along the Goose Creek corridor. They have had an impact on bridge design and the placement of buildings.

Mr. Maroon noted that part of the charge for the Statewide Board was to consider new requests for the formation of a local committee. He suggested that the Board may wish to develop criteria and be involved in the recommendation regarding whether a group warrants designation.

#### **Educational Presentations**

##### *Appomattox Trail and Parks Planning*

Mr. Richard Taylor thanked Mr. Porcher Taylor and Virginia State University.

Mr. Taylor provided an aerial photo of the Appomattox River and discussed some of the plans and vision for the river as it flows through Petersburg. He introduced Victor Liw, A senior planner for the Crater Planning District Commission who provides help and leadership.

Mr. Taylor said that without the support of the board and guidance of DCR staff the the Friends of the Chesterfield Riverfront would not be the success they are today.

He stated that the group has created some trails with assistance from Virginia Dominion Power. He invited members to come walk the trail system in Chesterfield County.

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River has a plan in place to emphasis natural history, early industrial revolution history, Civil War history and revolutionary history.

The goal is that people will come to Petersburg, ride the bateau boat, see historic sites, take a steam train ride to the national battlefield park and to Hopewell to get on a replica of a steamboat.

### *Friends of the Chesterfield Riverfront*

Janit Potter gave an overview of the activities of the Friends of the Chesterfield Riverfront. The Friends of the Chesterfield Riverfront was organized as an outgrowth of the riverfront plan adopted in 1997. There is a twelve member board of local representatives.

The group does everything in partnership. Rarely do they do a project that is just for the Chesterfield Riverfront.

The strategic plan includes outreach and education, a river rafters club, and a river camp every summer with the Henricus Foundation at Dutch Gap Conservation Area.

The group has a watershed awards program for Chesterfield County public schools. This spring the group is working with eleven middle schools to do bayscape gardening in their school yards.

Ms. Potter discussed the Virginia State University and Ettrick Trail

- Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation is leading the project
- This particular trail was put in the riverfront plan for Chesterfield.
- Some preliminary planning mapped out a place about 2 miles long

The Eppington Foundation and Chesterfield Parks and Recreation are working to add river front parcel to County owned Eppington Foundation property.

Point of Rocks Park on the Appomattox River was hit very hard by the hurricane. Most of the park has reopened.

### *Chesapeake Bay Tributary Plan*

Mr. Maroon gave a presentation concerning the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategies.

The Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership states: "By 2010, correct the nutrient- and sediment-related problems in the Chesapeake Bay and it's tital tributaries sufficiently to remove the Bay and the trial portions of its tributaries form the list of impaired waters under the Clean Water Act."

The approach to tributary strategy revisions will include the establishment of tributary teams for the following areas: Shenandoah, Potomac, Rappahannock, York, Upper James, Middle James, Lower James and the Eastern Shore.

Additional information is available at <http://www.naturalresources.virginia.gov> and at <http://www.chesapeakebay.net>.

Mr. Gibbons introduced Petersburg Mayor Roslyn Dance.

Mayor Dance welcomed members to Petersburg and acknowledged and thanked Mr. P.T. Taylor and Mr. Richard Taylor.

Mayor Dance stressed the importance of waterways. She noted that communities that are thriving and prospering seem to have a link to the waterways. She also pointed out that historically, Petersburg was more of a trade and business hub than the City of Richmond.

The certificate “Recognized the special values of the Appomattox River, which resulted in the designation as a State Scenic River, by the General Assembly of Virginia and to the city for its continued efforts through its programs and policies to enhance stewardship of the river.”

Mayor Dance introduced Petersburg City Manager David Canada

Mr. Canada reviewed some of the plans that the city has for the Appomattox River. He provided a packet of information for members (a copy of that information is available for review in the DCR offices).

The city emphasis is to preserve the river as well as to use it to advance the cities economic revitalization. Much of the land along the Appomattox is publicly owned.

The city is supportive of the creation of a trails system that would traverse the length of the Appomattox from the lake to Hopewell. The city has recently retained a consultant to consider the designation of the area as part of the national register district in order to achieve protection as well as the economic benefits associated with that designation.

Mr. Canada stated that the city is opposed to the removal of the Harvell dam.

The city hopes to advance the dredging of the river. The river is currently navigable from Hopewell to within 5,000 feet of the city.

### **New Business**

Ms. Jackson noted that in regards to the tributary strategies the list of impaired waters is very distressing. She noted that there is a public comment period and that the Board may wish to hear the tributary strategy presentation.

Mr. Gibbons noted that at the November meeting there was discussion of signage on bridges. Mr. Maroon is working with VDOT on this issue.

Dr. Hambrick noted that he was not able to locate the Scenic Rivers on the DCR website. Mr. Maroon said that staff would review the website accordingly.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be hosted by the Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee in Loudoun County on either September 23 or September 30. Part of the day would include information from Luckstone and a view of the bridge that was designed for modern traffic, but using historic design and standards.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Gibbons  
Chairman

Joseph H. Maroon  
Recording Secretary