

**Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation
Thursday, June 2, 2005
Buckingham Courthouse, Virginia**

Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Present

Alan D. Albert, Chair
David G. Brickley
Linda Crandell
Richard Formato

Sheryl D. Swinson, Vice Chair
J. Benjy Burnett
Joy A. Cooley
Stephen Murray

Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Not Present

Ted Drake
Gwen Mason

Gerald Connolly
Susan Swecker

DCR Staff Present

Joseph H. Maroon
David C. Dowling
William Conkle
John Heerwald
Synthia Waymack

John R. Davy
Joe Elton
Michael R. Fletcher
Robert S. Munson

Call to Order

Chairman Albert called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. A quorum was not yet present.

Director's Report

Mr. Maroon gave the following Director's Report.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

State Parks

State parks received substantial support with nearly \$18 million in new funding and 57 new positions added to the budget. Mr. Maroon said this was what the Department was hoping for going in to the legislative session. This level of support is unprecedented in the agency's history.

The \$18 million in new funding is divided up as follows:

- \$4.6 million for operations and 57 new staff

- \$3.0 million for maintenance reserve (including \$574,000 in FY05 and \$2.4M in FY06)
- \$7.0 million to supplement existing General Obligation Bond construction funds (to help compensate for increased costs in construction, materials, etc.)
- \$2.7 million for GO project related equipment and furniture (split between FY05 and FY06)
- \$650,000 for state park dam repairs with a commitment for the same amounts over the next four fiscal years

Mr. Murray asked about the status of the hiring for the 57 positions.

Mr. Maroon said the goal was to have as many as possible in place by July 1.

Natural Heritage

Natural Heritage received \$300,000 for preserve management and \$56,000 in Nongeneral Funds and an FTE for Karst Education. The operational funding is to provide for responsible management of the natural area preserve system, including safe public access and expanded wildlife management. Operating the natural area preserves includes boundary maintenance, fire management, habitat restoration, and managed hunt coordination.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

Land Conservation received \$10 million for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation staffed by DCR. Added to the \$2.5 million already slated for this year means there will be \$12.5 million available for grants this fiscal year and an additional \$2.5 next fiscal year.

Water Quality

DCR received an additional \$6.5 million in water quality improvement fund for FY 06 meaning that we will have \$30 million to spend to provide matching grants for controlling nonpoint source pollution resulting from agricultural activities and other activities beginning July 1st. There will also be a study committee this year of senior legislators who will look at long-term funding needs for the Chesapeake Bay.

Other budget items include the following:

Occoneechee GOB project – Budget language was added to direct DC R to make completion of the proposed lodging and restaurant facilities a priority in the capital construction process.

Seven Bends State Park – Language to authorize a property exchange to allow the agency to obtain clear title to 235 acres of the new Seven Bends State Park in

the Upper Shenandoah Valley was clarified in the budget plan according to DCR wishes.

[NOTE: In addition to progress on this acquisition, the Department is making headway on the Middle Peninsula State Park acquisition.]

Pinnacle Area Feasibility Study – The legislative budget plan included language directing DCR to study the feasibility of a state park in the Pinnacles area of Russell County. DCR worked with the patron, Delegate Bud Phillips of Russell County, to get revisions to the original amendment.

[NOTE: In early May, DCR conducted a field visit on the Clinch River in Russell County to determine its suitability to provide recreation. It was determined that the Clinch has many outstanding and remarkable characteristics that provide excellent scenery and opportunities for white water paddling, fishing and nature study. The river also has many natural heritage resources and good public access. There is a need to provide support facilities such as camping grounds, cabins, canoe liveries and opportunities for education and interpretation to capitalize on the eco-tourism assets of the corridor. A concern that must be addressed in the analysis is the sensitivity of natural heritage resources in the study area. Finding the proper level of recreational use and determining the right location is a major objective of the study.]

Breaks Interstate Park – Received a \$50,000 in additional funding.

Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation – The legislative budget provides language exempting and construction project developed by or for Chippokes with an estimated cost of \$750,000 or less from the capital outlay review and approval process.

Virginia Outdoor Survey - \$80,000 for a survey of Virginia's citizens about their perceptions of and demand for park and natural area resources; results will be included in the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan. This survey is conducted every 5 years a part of the overall Outdoors Plan.) The plan must be approved by the National Park Service to maintain eligibility for federal funds.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

HB1931 Recreational access funding; limitations; AGENCY BILL

The recreational access road fund law was amended to clarify the allowance for fund expenditures for the construction of more than one recreational access road into major recreation areas such as large regional parks and state parks as they develop over time.

House Patron: Shannon

HB2212 Natural Area Preservation Fund; addition of fees, lease proceeds, and funds accrued from preserves; AGENCY BILL

Adds fees, lease proceeds, and funds accruing from the use or management of state natural area preserves acquired or held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Natural Area Preservation Fund.

House Patron: Dillard

Oconeechee Status Report

On May 17, 2005, Colonel Alexander of the Corps of Engineers approved the master plan amendment for the lodging, restaurant, and meeting facility at Oconeechee State Park. The Corps accepted the amendment as proposed by DCR with the addition of language stating that dock facilities, boat storage and launch areas were for overnight and day use guests only. No commercial marina facilities or leasing of wet slips or dry storage areas would be allowed. The Corps has also concurred with the Department's request to extend the lease on the park to 50 years. (There are 12 years remaining on the current lease). The Corps is in the process of drafting the new lease agreement for review by the state.

2005 Governor's Conference on Greenways, Blueways and Trails

The 2005 Governor's Conference on Greenways, Blueways and Trails was held May 1-4 at the Omni Hotel Richmond. Over 400 people attended. The conference presented a multi-discipline approach to "Building Active Communities."

The Conference highlighted the roles of the Health, Transportation, Education, Conservation and Recreation communities working together to make livable communities where walking and bicycling are a logical choice over the automobile for getting around town and to encourage a healthier lifestyle. Keynote speakers from Europe and across the country presented thought provoking and inspiring examples of successful programs and solutions.

High Bridge Rail Trail State Park Update

"High Bridge" Rail Trail is the name given to the 34.5-mile abandoned railroad corridor that runs between Pamplin City in Appomattox County through Farmville, Prince Edward and Cumberland Counties and on to Burkeville in Nottoway County. It is named for the high railroad bridge over the Appomattox River where a battle was fought just days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. Norfolk Southern has agreed to donate the corridor to the state and the General Assembly has authorized the state to take it for State Park purposes. DCR was awarded a Transportation Enhancement Grant for \$180,000 that we will use to develop a master plan, conduct engineering studies, Phase I environmental study, surveying, and to secure the corridor with gates and signs. Salvage operations to remove rails and ties will begin this summer and should be complete by no later than October. A ceremony to transfer title should be held in

November. We hope to start the master plan development process before the end of the year.

Powhatan (Beaumont) State Park Master Plan Status

A master plan committee of 30 community members has been appointed. The committee has held two working sessions and has toured the park site. They have identified natural, cultural, historic and social assets and liabilities of the site and area. The Committee has completed the development of a draft park purpose statement and draft goals and objectives for the park. The first public input meeting is scheduled for June 24th at the Powhatan Village Center on Route 13 in Powhatan Courthouse at 7:00 p.m.

Awards for John Davy

At this year's joint meeting of the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers, National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Resource Planners, and the National Park Service, John Davy received the National Recognition Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Conservation, Development and Enhancement of Our Nations Natural, Cultural and Recreational Resources. In addition, he received an outstanding service to the profession award for his work on a national team in providing innovative solutions to the administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

False Cape Cleanup Activities

On Friday, April 22, 2005, a reporter from the Virginia Pilot called DCR inquiring about a dump at False Cape State Park. The first story regarding the area appeared in the Virginian Pilot on Saturday, April 23. The story referred to an area at the park where metal, old tires and other materials that wash onto the beaches were stored until hauled away. The Department of Environmental Quality inspectors inspected the site on Tuesday, April 26 and subsequently DEQ actively worked with park staff to clean up the metal and tires. Additional staff and equipment were sent in from other parks to assist with the clean up. The Department acted responsibly and promptly in eliminating the materials.

Mr. Murray asked if staff had known about this.

Mr. Elton said that the reality is most of the material that was there washes up on the park shoreline. Staff collects the debris and gets it off the beach. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service does not remove the material from their land. DCR was waiting for salvage prices to move up to help pay for the effort.

When the story broke, staff was in manager's meeting in Marion at the time. Mr. Elton said it gave him the opportunity to address similar situations in other parks. In no case

did staff find a similar area described as a dump. However several areas of concern were identified.

Mr. Elton said that the staff didn't have trouble with removing the material. They did not want it in the park. It was a in a remote area of the park not reached by accident.

Mr. Albert noted that there is no vehicular access to the park.

Mr. Elton said the environmental community in Virginia Beach has been very supportive and complimentary of the staff.

Mr. Albert asked about the staff compliment for the park.

Mr. Elton said that the full staff for the park was five, but currently staffing was down to two.

Ms. Swinson asked if there was a subsequent article.

Mr. Elton said there was a small follow up article with some photos.

Mr. Maroon noted that there were at least three articles from start to finish.

Mr. Albert said it was a nice opportunity for the agency and advocates of the park to talk about how stretched resources are. He noted that False Cape is the most prominent point of land between the Bay and the North Carolina barrier islands. Because of that much debris naturally washes on shore.

Dedication of Walnut Hill Farm at Chippokes State Park

In a special ceremony at Chippokes Plantation State Park on April 17, DCR and Chippokes dedicated a gift of 363 acres and historic buildings from a donation made to the park by Lucy Reasor of Virginia Beach. Ms. Reasor gave the property, known as Walnut Hill Farm, to the state about a year ago in memory of her late husband, Woodrow W. Reasor. State officials, including Secretary Tayloe Murphy, DCR Director Joseph H. Maroon and several legislators unveiled a plaque on the farm dedicating the property on Sunday, April 17.

Recognition of Virginia State Parks

Four of Virginia's state parks have mde the 2005 Top 100 Family Campgrounds and other special places to visit as selected by Camping Life Magazine. Douthat State Park, Chippokes Plantation State Park, Kiptopeke State Park and Pocahontas State Park were selected based on criteria requested by family campers including park amenities, beautiful outdoor scenery, and educational facilities.

Additionally, Kiptopeke State Park was selected as one of the Top 10 Fishing Spots, Raymont R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park's Massanutten

Overlook was selected as one of the Top 10 Scenic Views and Douthat State Park was selected in the Top 5 Kid Friendly parks.

House Appropriations Committee Meeting at Douthat State Park

DCR Staff made presentations to legislators on the House Appropriations Committee on May 15 and 16 at Douthat State Park. Presentations were provided on State Park volunteerism efforts and on the status of state parks bond projects and fiscal status after this year's legislative actions. The Secretary of Natural Resources also made a presentation on water quality and land conservation fiscal needs.

Mr. Albert noted that with the arrival of Mr. Formato and Mr. Brickley arrived, a quorum was present.

Minutes of the January 6, 2005 Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Crandell moved that the minutes of the January 6, 2005 meeting of the Board of Conservation and Recreation be approved as submitted.

SECOND: Mr. Murray

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

State Park Master Plans

York River State Park

Mr. Munson presented an overview of the proposed master plan for York River state park. He noted that members received a copy of the executive summary in the mailing for the meeting. A copy of that executive summary is available from DCR.

York River State Park is located on the banks of the York River in James City County. The park consists of 2505 acres and has 3.5 miles of frontage on the river. Included within the park is the Taskinas Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve that supports research and monitoring in a unique watershed containing upland marle forest, fresh water habitats, estuarine habitats, and meso-haline tidal habitats. The park was once the historic 18th Century Taskinas Plantation, which qualifies the park to become a National Historic Landmark. The park also contains significant Native American archaeological sites, one of which, the Croaker Landing Site, is on the National Register of Historic

Places. There are also known 10,000-year old Paleo-Indian activity areas within the park's boundaries that are also eligible for National Register listing.

The purpose of York River State Park, a Chesapeake Bay Gateway site, is to provide premiere outdoor recreational, research, and educational opportunities while protecting and interpreting the unique natural, historical, and cultural resources of the lower peninsula of Virginia.

The park will be a stop on the Captain John Smith Water Trail.

The following lists presents the projects that have been identified by the public and the Master Plan Advisory Committee that will need to be completed to bring the park to its desired future condition.

Phase I

- Improve boat ramp facilities at Croaker Landing
- Move gate in at Croaker Landing
- Replace campsites for blueway
- Improve dock at Taskinas Creek for transient canoes/kayaks
- Connect to county water and sewer

Phase II

- Construct new park office
- Build new contact station at park entrance
- Renovate/upgrade visitor center
- Develop interpretive displays and programs for center
- Construct group residential facility
- Construct grief ranger residence
- Equestrian parking lot and access road

Phase III

- Construct picnic area with shelter
- Relocate trails and develop new parking areas
- Construct 30-site campground with camping cabins
- Construct group camp
- Upgrade Amphitheater

Mr. Elton noted that a possible future threat could be from a zoological group that has been developed in the area. They have identified a handful of sites where they believe a 300 acre zoological site could be developed. Their first choice is Eastern State Hospital property.

If the group did chose to target York River, Mr. Elton said that objections could be expected from VIMS, NOAA and other environmental groups.

Mr. Brickley said he would like to commend the Department on the Executive Summary sent to board members. He asked about the involvement of Carlton Abbott and his vision for a Native American Memorial.

Mr. Brickley said that Mr. Abbott has noted that there is no national native American memorial or resting place in the country.

Mr. Munson said that a representative from the Virginia Council on Indians was on the master plan advisory committee. There is not a consensus among the tribes of Virginia that such a site is desirable and that it should be in a state park.

Mr. Davy noted that the National Park Service would require a replacement of any land that was used for a memorial.

Mr. Munson said that the Council does not want a memorial to be a major tourist area. They would prefer the location to be quiet and accessible to the tribes.

Mr. Elton noted that the fishing pier is in a very good location, and is very popular. The current parking lot is not adequate for commercial and recreational fishing. The bond project will alleviate some of that by expanding the parking.

However, Mr. Elton noted that the expanded parking lot may still not be satisfactory.

MOTION: Ms. Swinson moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend the approval of the proposed Master Plan for York River State Park as presented by DCR staff.

SECOND: Ms. Crandell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Westmoreland State Park

Mr. Conkle presented the Master Plan for Westmoreland State Park.

Located along the cliffs of the Potomac River, Westmoreland State Park offers many land and water related activities including swimming, hiking picnicking, fishing, camping and boating. An Olympic size pool, accessible fishing pier, children's playground, boat launching facilities, concession area, campground, cabins and a Visitor Center are available. The Potomac River Retreat, located on the sandy beach of the Potomac, is available for reunions, retreats or just a get-away. And the park conference center is available for meetings and workshops. Westmoreland State Park is located near the

birthplaces of George Washington and Robert E. Lee in the historic Northern Neck of Virginia. Westmoreland is one of the original six Virginia State Parks opened in 1936.

Proposed Developments for Westmoreland Park are as follows:

Phase I

- Construct Visitor Center/Office Complex (Bond 2002)
- Stabilize Cliff Erosion (Bond 2002)
- Stabilize Shoreline Erosion
- Construct Contact Station
- Expand Existing Fishing Pier
- Improve Boat Launch Area to include Comfort Station
- Renovate Conference Center
- Upgrade Campground with Water/Electric Sites and add a Group Camping Site
- Construct Canoe-in Campsites (4 sites)
- Utilities – Underground Wires and Backup Emergency Systems
- Construct Staff Housing (2)
- Renovate Existing Staff Housing (Park Manager and Chief Ranger)
- Develop a Hike/Bike Trail from Park Amenities to Route 3
- Modify Three Existing Trails to Hike/Bike Trails and add a Handicapped Accessible Loop
- Develop Trail Linkages with Local Sites and area long distance trails

Phase II

- Construct Two Large, Handicapped-Accessible Picnic Shelters
- Construct a Handicapped-Accessible Fishing Pier
- Construct Catering-Friendly Shelter with Comfort Station
- Convert Existing Office into Seasonal Staff Housing
- Convert Existing Visitor Center into Wetlab/Classroom
- Construct a New Campground Loop

Phase III

- Construct Additional Eight Cabins and Two six-bedroom Family Lodges
- Construct Walk-In Remote Campsites
- Designate/Design/Construct a Swimming Beach
- Upgrade Water System
- Upgrade Septic System

Mr. Albert asked about the retreat center.

Mr. Conkle said the retreat center was an inholding for a long time. The center was heavily damaged by Hurricane Isabel.

Mr. Elton said the center sleeps 16 and has meeting space for twice that. The center is right on the river. A contractor has been identified and the center should be reopened for next spring.

Mr. Davy said that the renovation is well underway. The walls had to be removed because of water damage.

Mr. Elton noted that staff shoveled out several feet of silt.

Ms. Crandell noted that the old restaurant has meeting space.

Mr. Elton said the problem with the restaurant is that the building is not properly fitted with heating and air conditioning. The Master Plan calls for a complete renovation.

Mr. Albert asked about the development pressures outside the park boundaries.

Mr. Elton noted that there was not much buffer along the entrance road. DCR is looking for opportunities to acquire additional property for a buffer along this road.

Ms. Crandell said that after having been a part of the Master Plan Advisory Committee that she was impressed with how the committee works. She said time is not wasted and the committee remains focused.

Mr. Murray concurred. He also complimented Mr. Munson's leadership on the Powhatan property.

Mr. Brickley said that, at the request of the department, he had represented DCR at a meeting of travel writers from across the country. This was part of the Gateways program to the Chesapeake Bay initiated by the National Park Service. The tour went through Westmoreland State Park and then across the 301 bridge into Maryland. He said that he was hopeful that there would be some good articles about the beauty and attributes of Virginia State Parks.

Mr. Brickley asked the status of the planning for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as it goes by Westmoreland State Park to Stratford Hall.

Mr. Davy said the trail could be any number of things. This is a federal designation as a unit of the National Park Service. He said that this trail would connect Westmoreland to Stratford Hall. The land between the park and Stratford Hall is either public or owned by Stratford Hall. There are also plans to connect to the Washington Birthplace.

Mr. Elton noted that Westmoreland State Park was the first park that the General Assembly invested money in after Shenandoah National Park.

MOTION: Mr. Brickley moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend the approval of the proposed Master Plan for Westmoreland State Park as presented by DCR staff.

SECOND: Ms. Burnett

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Recreational Trail Grants

Mr. Davy presented the Trail Application Summaries for the Recreational Trail Grants. He noted that applications came in from 31 eligible trails, with requests totaling \$1.9 million. A little over \$600,000 is available.

The trail advisory group recommended the following 11 requests for funding.

W&OD Trail Resurfacing & Widening, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Due to heavy use and age, portions of the trail asphalt are cracked and broken. Funding will support the resurfacing of the W&OD Trail for 1 mile in the Belmont Ridge Rd. to Clairborne Parkway segment, which is located in Loudoun County. In addition to resurfacing, this same section of trail will be widened from 8 ft. to 10 ft. to provide a greater buffer space among the various trail users groups (hikers, cyclists, persons with disabilities, equestrians, in-line skaters, etc.).

Grant Request \$92,800

Mr. Albert asked about the current status of the power transmission line.

Ms. Waymack said that through the work of the W&OD friends and community support, Dominion Power has decided not to take down the trees along the power line.

Mr. Elton noted that the Northern Virginia regional park authority now has a formal agreement with Dominion Power.

Riverside Drive Trail, Phase I, City of Danville

The proposed 3,000 ft. Riverside Drive Trail will link with Danville's Riverwalk. This new trail will provide direct access not only to scenic river views but also to restaurants, scenic areas, neighborhoods and shops along Riverside Drive in Danville. The multi-use trail will be 12 ft. wide and ADA accessible. Project includes a 65 ft. bridge across Apple Branch, a 300 ft. boardwalk and a canoe portage.

Grant Request \$100,000

Ditch Witch SK500 Equipment Purchase, Pathfinders for Greenways

The Pathfinders for Greenways is a non-profit volunteer group that helps with the construction of natural surface trails in the Roanoke area. The proposal is for the purchase of a ditch witch SK500 mini skid loader machine. Funds will purchase a basic machine and 5 attachments, trailer, maintenance, tools and safety equipment for operators. The equipment will be used for the construction of single rack trails, multi-use trails, and ADA accessible trails as well as for rehabilitation and maintenance in various locations throughout the area.

Grant Request \$31,000

Mr. Brickley asked if funds had been given in the past for the direct acquisition of equipment.

Mr. Davy said that funds have been given for equipment to the forest service and to parks.

Mr. Brickley asked if this had been done for nonprofits. He also asked how long the Pathfinders had been in existence. He said the concern was that the group may disband and there would be no provision for the equipment. He suggested that there should be language to stipulate the reversion of the equipment if necessary.

Mr. Murray asked if the equipment would be available to be used elsewhere.

Mr. Davy said that DCR must rely heavily on volunteer organizations in many areas. While this is the first time it has been proposed to give such a grant to a 501(c)(3), staff feels the proposal has merit.

Mr. Munson said that the Roanoke Valley Greenways was established by the County, and the Cities of Salem and Vinton as a multi-jurisdictional park authority. Each locality contributes to the budget. The groups under this authority, which includes the Pathfinders for Greenways, are volunteer organizations.

Mr. Albert noted that this was the same group that worked on the Appalachian Trail relocation on Catawba.

Mr. Brickley said that he would suggest language that the equipment reverts back to DCR if the organization folds, but also that the equipment would be available for other DCR and greenway commission projects within the region.

Mr. Davy said that staff could work on language to convey that message.

Mr. Albert said that he believed the Board wanted explicit language in that regard as well as language to make it actively available for other trail uses.

Luray Hawksbill Greenway Phase IV, Town of Luray

The Town of Luray proposes phase IV of the popular Luray Hawksbill Greenway. A new 3,500 ft. trail will be constructed linking the southeast end of the existing trail to the Luray Recreation Park. This final phase will connect residential, elementary and high schools to each other and the Park. This portion of the trail will be framed in its background by the Massanutten Mountain. Upon completion, this phase will provide users with a 3 mile ADA compliant trail. An information kiosk, bike rack, picnic table and 8 trail side benches will also be added along this section of the trail.

Grant Request \$100,000

Tobacco Heritage Trail, Southside Planning District Commission

The proposed multiuse trail will run primarily along an abandoned trail corridor for 4.3 miles between LaCrosse and Broadnax, Virginia. The project is intended to serve as both a recreational and historical education facility. The trail will be 12 ft. wide and granular surfaced. It will be the demonstration segment of the Tobacco Heritage Trail that is planned to extend eastward into Brunswick County and eventually connect to the Town of Lawrenceville.

Grant Request \$49,855

Town of Strasburg Greenway/Blueway

The Town has procured 53 acres of riverfront land along the Shenandoah River. The Town envisions creation of a key pedestrian link along this corridor. The proposed facility will link residents with Keister Park in Shenandoah County, the existing Strasburg Town Park, and the River's Edge Environmental Study Area. The trail will be a 3,800 ft. Multi-use Trail with 3,400 ft. of Connector Trails, also included in the proposal are 3 bridge crossings, 5 benches and signage along the trail.

Grant Request \$95,880

Oxford Run Canal Trail, City of Poquoson

The Oxford Run Canal Trail will be the first general use trail in the City. The 1.4 mile trail will incorporate aspects of a wilderness trail with features of a typical suburban walking trail. Interpretive signage will be included along the trail to educate users about the surrounding material that can accommodate wheelchair users while still allowing for the use of an impervious, more environmentally friendly surface.

Grant Request \$26,156

Town of Glen Lyn Park Trail

Development of a 2.5 mile trail situated along a section of the New River has potential designation as a Wild & Scenic River. The proposed trail will be a multi use facility suitable for use by cyclists, joggers, in line skaters, persons with disabilities, etc. The trail will help provide an additional recreation facility in an area with few available existing resources.

Grant Request \$39,680

Blackwater River Blueway, Franklin County Parks & Recreation

For 26 miles along the Blackwater River in Franklin County, the Franklin County Parks & Recreation Department proposes to connect the communities of Callaway, Antioch, Gogginsville, Rocky Mount, Burnt Chimney, Redwood and Wirts in a manner not seen since the days of the bateaux and the Carolina Wagon Road. This was a wagon road that stretched along the base of the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania to Greenville, South Carolina. Public access points at 5 locations will be provided along the Blackwater River between Route 919 and Route 826. Parking facilities with areas suitable for unloading and loading canoes and kayaks will also be provided. Informational Kiosks will be provided at the access points as well as river gauges to assist users to assess the river's level in relation to their paddling skills and abilities.

Grant Request \$30,000

Claytor Lake State Park, Bike-Pedestrian Circulation System, DCR

Project is for the development of a multi-use trail to connect all parts of Claytor Lake State Park. Currently, hikers, walkers, runners, cyclists, etc. must compete for space on Ben Bollen Drive. This road has a high volume of residential traffic. The proposed trail will be complemented with trailside benches and observation areas.

Grant Request \$78,128

First Landing State Park, Cape Henry Fitness Trail, DCR

This proposal is for the construction of 12-14 fitness stations along 1/4 of Cape Henry Trail. Much of the use at the park is repeat day-use and involves community groups such as the Tidewater Streiders, the Final Kick Sports Club, and the Navy Seal Challenge group. To help strengthen the community's sense of pride and participation, the stations will be constructed over a series of 8 Saturdays using different volunteer user groups.

Grant Request \$14,384

MOTION: Ms. Swinson moved that the Board recommend approval for the trail application grants as submitted by staff with the inclusion of the following language:

The application for assistance in the purchase of at Ditch Witch SK500 submitted by Pathfinders for Greenways is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The Director is authorized to determine the appropriate entity to hold title to the equipment.
2. The grant agreement shall provide for the reversion of the equipment to the Department of Conservation and Recreation in the event the entity receiving the grant ceases to exist or to be actively involved in trail maintenance.
3. The grant agreement shall require the recipient to make the equipment reasonably available, upon request, to other

governmental entities and nonprofit entities for us in trail construction and maintenance activities.

SECOND: Mr. Formato
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants

Mr. Davy said that the Land and Water Conservation Fund was established in 1964. For this year DCR received requests totaling \$3.2 million for an available \$954,000. The fund has been eliminated from the President's budget for the next fiscal year.

DCR is recommending funding for seven of the 27 eligible projects received.

Ms. Waymack presented a summary of the seven proposed projects.

Appomattox River Park, Prince George County

The park is 25 acres situated on the banks of the Appomattox River. Prince George County proposes the construction of an educational facility and comfort station to complement the nature and recreational trails planned for the site. The educational facility will be ADA accessible and will be of rustic design. 1600 square feet will be devoted to open classroom space and 1600 square feet will be devoted to covered classroom space. In addition funds will be used to construct a parking area.

Grant Request \$80,000

Moneta Park Project, Bedford County

The 119-acre site is located 12 miles south of Bedford City and 5 miles north from the Hales Ford Bridge that crosses Smith Mountain Lake. Assistance from the L&WCF will aid in the development of 2 tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court, picnic shelter, playground, and 50-space parking lot.

Grant Request \$116,000

Linville Creek Greenway & Pocket Park, Town of Broadway

The proposed pocket park will be situated on about 4 acres located on the northern side of Turner Avenue bordering Linville Creek. The Greenway originating in the park will link the town with Hillyard Park, 3 schools, the town hall, central business district and residential communities. Funding will allow for the development of 5 picnic shelter, 12 picnic tables, 2 information kiosk, 2 bike racks, a basketball court, 4 horseshoe pits, a comfort building, and a parking area.

Grant Request \$200,000

County Park at Great Creek, Phase II, County of Brunswick

The 56 acre park is located on the banks of the Great Creek Reservoir in Brunswick County. The park is the only public park in the county and currently is a popular site for fishing and picnicking. Funding from the L&WCF will aid in the construction of nature trails, a multi-use playing field, playground areas, volleyball court and horseshoe pit.

Grant Request \$55,000

Mauertown Park, Shenandoah County

The 67 acre park is located along Route 11, north of the Town of Woodstock. The Shenandoah County Parks & Recreation Department proposes the construction of an amphitheater, picnic shelters, gazebos and a 1.5 mile trail. The trail will link with the Tuscarora/Big Blue Trail, and a Historic Civil War Trail. Also included is lighting for the ballfield, soccer field, tennis courts and basketball court.

Grant Request \$200,000

Highland Pool Project, Highland County

This proposal is for the construction of a pool, changing room with bathrooms and a parking area at Highland Park near the Town of Monterey. The pool will be outfitted with a handicap accessible lift for persons with disabilities and the elderly. Other park amenities include multi-use trails and playing fields.

Grant Request \$110,000

Kenbridge Town Park, Town of Kenbridge

The 6 acre park is located on the eastern side of the Town of Kenbridge. The Town proposes the development of a regulation soccer field, 3 playgrounds, a basketball court, volleyball court, an ADA walking trail, 2 horseshoe pits, a gazebo and restroom facility and parking area.

Grant Request \$200,000

MOTION: Ms. Crandell moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend approval of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants as submitted by DCR staff.

SECOND: Ms. Swinson

DISCUSSION: Ms. Swinson asked if applications were given additional consideration if the matching grant amount was larger.

Ms. Waymack said that the scoring criteria are provided in the grant manual. Scoring items include whether or not the project provides public access and whether it provides access on a waterway. The project is also scored on the ability to complete all aspects of the project within two years. Consideration is also given to past grant administration.

Mr. Davy noted that once Land and Water Conservation funds are spent, the land is permanently protected for park and recreation use. It cannot be used for a different purpose without a significant process to replace the park with something else.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Water Quality Guidelines

Mr. Maroon gave an overview of the proposed revisions to the Water Quality Improvement Guidelines.

The Water Quality Improvement Fund establishes guidelines for how the fund will be utilized. The purpose of the 1997 Virginia Water Quality Improvement Act is to restore and improve the quality of state waters and to protect them from impairment and destruction for the benefit of current and future citizens of the Commonwealth.

While the responsibility for stormwater management regulations has been transferred to the Soil and Water Conservation Board, legislation requires that the Board of Conservation and Recreation, the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board and the Soil and Water Conservation Board be consulted on revisions to the guidelines.

Mr. Maroon noted that the public comment period continues through July 29, 2005. He referenced a copy of the notice of public comment. A copy of the handout provided is available from DCR.

The Secretary of Natural Resources issues guidelines on behalf of the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Mr. Maroon noted that the General Assembly has focused on agriculture with regards to making significant improvements in the Chesapeake Bay.

Policy on the Naming of Virginia State Parks

Mr. Elton presented an overview on the Department proposed policy for the naming of State Parks. He noted that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has adopted a policy that official discourages naming.

Mr. Elton said that this issue came to the forefront because of the acquisition of new parks and new land for parks.

Previous acts of the General Assembly have sought to name parks after individuals. DCR has been concerned that names of parks need to be considered for marketing and

identification purposes. For example James River State Park, Grayson Highlands State Park, etc.

DCR believes there are appropriate ways to recognize individuals within the context of state parks without including an individuals name in the official name of the park.

The proposed policy would establish the master planning process as the formal process for the suggestion and discussion of park names. The committee would recommend to the State Parks Director and the Department Director. The Board would be consulted on name considerations. Following that the General Assembly would be given 30 days to comment. The final decision would be that of the Director.

MOTION: Ms. Swinson moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation endorse the proposed Policy for the Naming of New Virginia State Parks with the following edits:

Section I

It is the intent of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation shall be changed to:

It is the policy of the Virginia Department of Conservatin and Recreation

Also, Section IV "Exceptions to the Naming Policy and Procedures" should be deleted.

SECOND: Ms. Crandell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

GOB Project Update

Mr. Davy gave an update regarding 2002 General Obligation Bond projects. A full copy of his presentation is available from DCR.

General Obligation Bond Update

- *Progress much farther ahead of 1992 Bond*
 - *Tier 1 projects completed or underway*
 - *10 projects now complete*
 - *11 more by Summer 2006*
- *Some acquisitions complete or in progress; several are moving more slowly than expected*
- *Total funds expended or obligated almost \$36 M*
- *Leveraged over \$8 M in Federal Funds*

New State Park Facilities To Be Completed During 2005

- *69 new cabins in 7 parks*
- *210 new campsites in 5 parks and 132 campsites upgraded in 2 parks*
- *New visitors centers built at Belle Isle and Grayson Highlands*
- *New meeting facilities at Bear Creek and Claytor Lake*
- *New boat docks and picnic shelter at Leesylvania*
- *9 new bathhouses*

GOB Update

- *Next phase to begin July 2005 including:*
 - *Construction of roads, cabins, campground and visitor's center – Shenandoah River/Andy Guest*
 - *Construction of cabins – Douthat*
 - *Renovate visitors center – Staunton River*
 - *Renovate historic Hillsman House – Sailors Creek Battlefield*
 - *Construct equestrian center, parking and road repairs – Pocahontas*
 - *Dredge lakes – Hungry Mother and Douthat*
 - *Improve visitors center and Chesapeake Bay Center – First Landing*
- *All projects should be completed by 2010.*

State Park Project Fund

Mr. Fletcher presented the following state parks fund projects for action by the Board:

03-02 Sky Meadows audiovisual supplies	Close, zero balance
03-06 New River Trail Galax parking lot	Close, zero balance
05-01 New River Trail picnic facility \$2,000 from park dedicated funds	APPROVE

05-02 Caledon Natural Area computer equipment APPROVE
\$3,000 from park dedicated funds

05-03 Grayson Highlands digital camera APPROVE
\$600 from park dedicated funds

MOTION: Ms. Swinson moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend approval of the state parks project funds actions as submitted by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Crandell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
Sherry, Linda

Other Business

Mr. Heerwald presented an overview of the Governor's initiatives on Lifestyles for Health Virginians.

State Parks will be participating in this initiative using the slogan, "Virginia State Parks ...part of a healthy lifestyle"

A copy of the materials distributed to Board members is available from DCR.

Mr. Heerwald noted that it was the intent to make this become sort of a part of the institutional culture rather than a one year campaign.

Mr. Elton expressed his appreciation to Mr. Maroon and the Board for their working in obtaining support from the General Assembly.

MOTION: Mr. Brickley moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation commend John Davy on his receipt of the national recognition award.

SECOND: Mr. Burnett

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION: Mr. Brickley moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation commend the staff of DCR for the outstanding work they did in the planning and execution of the Governor's

Conference on Greenways and Blueways, and in particular that Bob Munson be commended for his leadership and direction of that conference.

SECOND: Ms. Swinson
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan D. Albert
Chairman

Joseph H. Maroon
Executive Secretary