

**Final Board Meeting Minutes
Board of Game and Inland Fisheries
4000 West Broad Street, Board Room
Richmond, Virginia 23230**

**October 18, 2012
9:00 am**

Present: Mr. F. Scott Reed, Jr., Chairman, Mr. Curtis Dixon Colgate, Vice-Chairman, Ms. Lisa Caruso, Mr. J. Brent Clarke, III, Mr. Ben Davenport, Mr. Hugh C. Palmer, Mr. Leon O. Turner, Sr.; Mr. Garry Gray, Mr. David Bernhardt, Mr. Vaughn Groves; **Absent:** Mr. James W. Hazel; **Executive Director:** Mr. Robert “Bob” W. Duncan; **Chief Operating Officer:** Mr. Matt Koch; **Senior Leadership Team:** Mr. Tom Gelozin, Mr. Larry Hart, Mr. Lee Walker, Mr. David Whitehurst; Dr. Joice Conyers.

[\(Listen: Call to Order and Welcome\)](#)

The Chairman welcomed everyone and noted for the record that a quorum was present for the meeting. Mr. Gray read the Mission Statement into the record and Ms. Drewery led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman announced that a closed meeting would be held during the meeting.

The Chairman recognized the Department’s two new Board Members, Mr. David Bernhardt and Mr. Vaughn Groves, and welcomed them to the Board.

The Chairman recognized Ms. Sara Benghauser from the Secretary of Natural Resources Office and thanked her for attending. The Chairman also thanked the Press and Elizabeth Andrews from the Office of the Attorney General for attending.

Recognition of Employees and Others: [\(Listen\)](#) The Director called upon staff for the following recognitions:

Mr. David Whitehurst recognized the following 3 employees:

- 2012 Terrestrial Biologist of the Year- David Norris
- 2012 Aquatic Biologist of the Year - Bob Greenlee
- 2012 Resource Person of the Year - Ed Steinkoenig

The Director recognized David Whitehurst for receiving the C. S. Watson award from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Director recognized Ms. Beth Drewery for her 34-year career with the state and called on staff for further presentation. Mr. Matt Koch recognized Ms. Drewery’s family who were in attendance and Mr. Scott Reed presented Ms. Drewery with retirement gifts and wished her a Happy Retirement.

The Director recognized Ms. Laura Newell-Furniss from Hunters for the Hungry for a presentation. Ms. Newell-Furniss presented the Department, represented by Bob Duncan, a framed print for all his support and the Department’s support of the Hunters for the Hungry Program.

The Chairman and the Director congratulated everyone on their accomplishments and thanked them for their service and dedication to the Agency and the Commonwealth. The Chairman and the Director also thanked Ms. Laura Newell-Furniss for her attendance and presentation.

Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items): ([Listen](#)) The Chairman called for public Comments-Non Agenda Items. The Chairman called attention to the need to limit individual comments to 3 minutes and comments to support a group to 5 minutes. The Chairman also reminded everyone wishing to make a comment to

move to the podium, state their name, and where they are from so all comments could be made a part of the record.

- Ms. Jenny West, Norge, Virginia spoke on behalf of the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia and the Department's support of their organization.
- Ms. Yvonne Royster, Chesterfield, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Mr. Ed Deitsch, Springfield, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Debra Dickson, Skipwith, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. A. Renee Coe, Fairfax, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves
- Ms. Erin Halleran, Williamsburg, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Laura Donahue, Richmond, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Robin Starr, Richmond, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Eleanor Matano, Charlottesville, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Linda Guinn, Powhatan, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Pam Enroughty, Richmond, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Dianne Olnman, Richmond, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Nadine Rich, Richmond, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Mr. Ronald Dombrowski, Chester, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Mr. Eric Fagerholm, Montclair, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Jessica Stovall, McKenney, spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Charles Pool, Richmond, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Truman Tench, Hopewell, Virginia registered to speak but did not speak.

- Mr. Gilbert Milton, Chester, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Ms. Jennifer Hackett, Appomattox, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.
- Mr. Kirby Burch, Powhatan, Virginia spoke regarding foxhound training preserves.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments and their attendance at today's meeting.

The Chairman called on Mr. Colgate, who made the following motion: Mr. Chairman, Whereas, staff and stakeholders have met and worked together since the last General Assembly session, And, whereas, it is essential that the work that has been made to date by all parties be considered in our upcoming regulatory cycle, And, whereas, it is imperative to give our constituents and the public the largest opportunity to review and comment on any possible changes to our regulations, therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move, that the Board direct the Executive Director to develop staff recommendations for regulation proposals concerning Foxhound Training Preserves during the 2013-2014 Hunting and Trapping Regulation Process. Motion was seconded by Mr. Clarke. After discussion, a vote was taken. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke.

The Chairman called for 10 minute break.

Following the break the Chairman called for the Approval of the August 14, 2012 minutes.

Approval of the August 14, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes: ([Listen](#)) The minutes of the August 14, 2012 meeting have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chairman called for a motion to approve the August 14, 2012 minutes as presented. Mr. Colgate made the following motion: Mr. Chairman, I hereby move the minutes approved as presented with the correction of adding Mr. Randy Kozuch name to the August 14, 2012 meeting. Motion Seconded by Mr. Clarke. After discussion, a vote was taken. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke.

Committee Reports: ([Listen](#))

Wildlife, Boat and Law Enforcement Committee: Mr. Turner, Chairman of the Wildlife, Boat and Law Enforcement Committee reported on the activities of the September 26, 2012 Committee meeting.

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee: Mr. Colgate, Chairman of the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee, reported on the activities of the October 11, 2012 Committee Meeting. Mr. Colgate called on Mr. Tom Gelozin to present the FY2013 – 1st Quarter Financial Summary which included a Capital Outlay summary.

Education, Planning and Outreach Committee: Ms. Caruso, Chairwoman of the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee reported on the activities of the October 17, 2012 meeting. The EPO Committee presented the following action item:

Wildlife Management Area Policy – Final Action

Following the staff presentation by Mr. David Whitehurst and discussion, the Board Chairman called for a motion, second, discussion and vote for final adoption of the Wildlife Management Area Policy as presented by staff. **Ms. Caruso made the following motion: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the policy entitled, Goals and Principals for Managing Virginia’s Wildlife Management Areas as approved by the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee and the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee and as presented by staff today. Motion seconded by Mr. Colgate. After discussion, a vote was taken. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke.**

The Chairman thanked the staff for their presentations and the Committee Chairs for their reports.

Director’s Report: ([Listen](#)) The Director reported on the following items:

Youth Hunting Day Activities

Legislative Retreat

- The Director introduced Dana Schrad and A. M. “Jake” Jacocks, Jr. from the Va. Association of Chiefs of Police. They reported on initiation of the management study of the Law Enforcement Division.

Level Pond Closing Scheduled

Boating Access “Grants to Localities” program

DGIF productivity training

Dangerous Wild Animal Study Update

Lynnhaven Estuary easement in Virginia Beach update

The Chairman thanked the Director for his report.

The Chairman revised the agenda to move into the Closed Session and move his Chairman’s Remarks to after the Closed Session.

Closed Session: ([Listen](#)) The Chairman called for a motion to move into a Closed Meeting. Ms. Caruso made the following motion:

***Closed Meeting Motion
October 18, 2012***

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries go into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries specifically regarding:

- ***The Performance of the Director.***

Furthermore, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property with respect to:

- ***The relocation of the agency headquarters.***

The closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(F), the Board requests the Department Director, the Chief Operating Officer, the Infrastructure Director, the Director of Planning and Finance and legal counsel to also attend this meeting, as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the Board in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

A vote was taken. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke. The Board meeting reconvened at 2:30. Ms. Caruso departed at 2:30 pm
Mr. Gray and Mr. Davenport departed at 2:45 pm.

Mr. Groves moved the following Certification.

[\(Listen: Certification of Closed Meeting\)](#)

***Certification of Closed Meeting
October 18, 2012***

WHEREAS, the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries conducted a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries here by certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

The Board Secretary conducted the following voice call vote:

Colgate –Aye

Palmer-Aye

Turner-Aye

Reed-Aye

Bernhardt-Aye

Groves-Aye

Clarke-Aye

Mr. Colgate made the following motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries authorize the Executive Director to make the purchase of the new headquarters site in Hanover County contingent on the signing of a contract for design and construction of the headquarters. Further, I move the Board authorize the Executive Director to utilize five million dollars of the Virginia Public Building Authority bond funds for design and construction of the new headquarters, and in the event the Agency does not receive the required state approvals to use this

amount, the Executive Director is authorized to utilize up to ten million dollars of bond funds for the design and construction of the new headquarters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clarke. After discussion, a vote was taken. Ayes: Colgate, Palmer, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke.

Mr. Colgate made the following motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries direct staff to submit a budget request in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to cover the costs of furnishings, equipment, and other soft costs associated with the construction of the new Headquarters Building. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clarke. After discussion, a vote was taken. Ayes: Colgate, Palmer, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke.

Mr. Clarke made the following motion: Mr. Chairman, In compliance with Section 29.1-103, paragraph 12, of the Code of Virginia, I move that in the event decisions are required regarding sale of the Agency's Atlee property in Hanover County, the Board authorizes the Executive Director to make those decisions after conferring with board members F. Scott Reed, Jr., Board Chairman and Curtis Dixon Colgate, Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Palmer. After discussion, a vote was taken. Ayes: Colgate, Palmer, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke.

The Chairman recognized The Director for comment.

[\(Listen: Director's Report, Continued\)](#)

The Director asked Lt. Col. Mike Clark to come to the podium to address the Board on a drowning situation that Law Enforcement has participated in recently and to also update the Board on the hiring of CPO's. Lt. Col. Clark provided information and the agency's participation in body recovery for a youth who drowned in a quarry pond in Prince George County. He also reported the division is considering requests for transfers by current officers prior to advertising for ten replacement officers recently authorized for recruitment.

Mr. Palmer departed at 3:15 pm.

Chairman's Remarks: [\(Listen\)](#) The Chairman called for a discussion to approve the 2013 Board meeting schedule as presented. Some changes were made and the Board Secretary was asked to confer with other Board members who were absent for their approval. The Chairman presented a Resolution on Agency efforts to recruit and retain hunters to the Board for discussion and motion. **Mr. Clarke made the following motion: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board adopt the following Resolution:**

Virginia Board of Game and Inland Fisheries: Board Committed to Redoubling Efforts to Increase Hunting Opportunities and Improve Hunter Recruitment

RICHMOND – The Board of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries hereby reaffirms its support for its hunting constituency and charges itself and the Department with developing and implementing a strategy to address the declining number of hunters in Virginia:

Board Committed to Increasing Virginia Hunter Numbers

WHEREAS, the right of the people to “hunt, fish, and harvest game” is protected by Article XI, Section 4 of the Constitution of Virginia, subject only to regulations and restrictions prescribed by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Board’s primary mission includes the protection of this constitutional right and the provision of opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife and related outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this mission, the Board is required to provide the necessary governance, guidance, direction, and financial oversight for the Department to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to safely enjoy diverse hunting, fishing, boating, and wildlife recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Department is funded almost entirely by the constituents it serves, more than 300,000 of whom are hunters; and

WHEREAS, hunter contributions are the largest single revenue source available to the Department for activities in support of its mission, including the acquisition of public lands and easements on private lands for wildlife management, hunting access, and conservation; and

WHEREAS, hunters contribute significantly to the Commonwealth’s economy by, among other things, providing a substantial economic benefit to rural areas and businesses through local spending on hunting equipment, gas, food, lodging and other incidental items; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Department have statutory responsibilities to ensure that the Department and its mission are sustainable over time and, therefore, a mandate to ensure that future generations participate in a sport that is an important part of the Commonwealth’s heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has experienced a significant decline in hunting participation by both in-state and out-of-state hunters over the past several decades, with licensed hunters as a percent of the population falling over 50% since 1980; and

WHEREAS, most recent data available indicates the average age of Virginia hunters has risen considerably; and

WHEREAS, if current trends continue, hunters will represent an ever-diminishing portion of the voting public and the historically effective voice of sportsmen in setting policy in the Commonwealth eventually will be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, studies conclude that the most significant impediments to recruiting and retaining new hunters, old and young, are lack of access, opportunity, and time; and

WHEREAS, youth hunter recruitment in particular is becoming increasingly difficult due to school, athletic and social activities that compete with hunting for the time and attention of Virginia’s youth; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Department have long recognized the decline in numbers of hunters and have worked diligently to reverse this troubling trend; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that previous initiatives have been insufficient to reverse this trend and that current and projected hunter numbers mandate significant, comprehensive and immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, do hereby instruct the Department to (i) develop an immediate and long-term strategy to reverse the decline of hunters in Virginia, (ii) formulate measurable goals and milestones for implementing this objective, and (iii) identify specific policies and practices that can be put into place through action by the Department,

regulation by the Board or legislation by the General Assembly, and hereby request that the constituents of the Department contribute to this exercise in a meaningful and constructive manner.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Colgate. After discussion, a vote was taken. Ayes: Colgate, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, Clarke.

Additional Comments: ([Listen](#)) The Chairman called for additional comments and/or business of the Board. Mr. Turner asked for an update on the Vic Thomas Hatchery and Mr. David Whitehurst advised him of the work being done there at this time.

([Listen: Next Meeting Date and Adjournment](#))

Next Meeting Date: January 29, 2013 beginning at 9 am.

Adjournment: The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn at 3:45 pm. With a motion, second, discussion, and an affirmative vote from **Colgate, Turner, Reed, Bernhardt, Groves, and Clarke**, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell