

EDUCATION, PLANNING AND OUTREACH MEETING MINUTES
4016 WEST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
MARCH 12, 2007, 5:48 pm

Present: Sherry Crumley, Madam Chair, John Montgomery, Board Chair, C. Marshall Davison, Jimmy Hazel; **Director:** J. Carlton Courter, III; **Senior Staff:** Gary Martel, David Whitehurst, Colonel Mike Bise, Ray Davis and Bob Duncan, Charlie Sledd.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting have been made available to the Committee members and posted on the Agency's web site. Motion moved and seconded to approve the minutes as written. **Ayes: Sherry Crumley, Jimmy Hazel, C. Marshal Davison.**

Review of Current Board Policies: According to the Board Governance Manual and the Education, Planning and Outreach Committee Charter, the Board policies are to be reviewed with recommended changes presented to the full board at its first meeting after January 1. The Committee has reviewed the current policies and given the short time that these policies have been in effect, no changes are recommended at this time.

Review of New Board Policy on Real Property Conveyances: The staff presented a new Board Policy to give the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries the authority to convey interests in land and water through minor land leases, easements, and contracts. Mr. Hazel made the following motion: I hereby move the adoption of this policy, Real Property Conveyances, which confers to the Director the powers and duties of the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries specified therein and to amend the Board Governance Manual by deleting the last paragraph on page 30 and the first paragraph on page 31. Motion died.

The Committee then amended the proposed policy to read: For the purposes of the policy only, as to lands owned by the Board, "minor land leases, easements and contracts" shall include ~~without limitations~~, public utility easements, leases, licenses or similar *minor* arrangements covering access to lands, water, administrative facilities, antenna sites and boat landings. The Director shall sign instruments of conveyance on behalf of the Board, and shall report on a regular basis to the Board or a committee thereof, as the Board may from time to time direct, but no less than once a year, a summary of such conveyances.

It is the policy of the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries that all such conveyances shall be compatible with the mission of the Department. The Board further requires that such conveyances shall be carried out by the Director according to all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

Mr. Hazel made the motion to recommend the adoption of the amended policy to the Board. Motion made and seconded. **Ayes: Sherry Crumley, Jimmy Hazel, C. Marshal Davison.**

Legislative Update: The staff presented a legislative update on bills affecting the Board and the Agency during the 2007 General Assembly. Twenty-three of the thirty-six bills affecting the Agency and Board passed during the Session.

The staff indicated that the following bills are of particular importance to the Board and will need post-session follow-up and/or action.

HB 2019 allows the agency to accept Waterfowl Blind Applications electronically and a system will have to be developed by staff to accept these applications.

HB 2021 provides for the crossbow license to be included into the youth and Sportsman's combo licenses. Staff indicated that the Board should consider adjusting the cost of the Sportsman's license to reflect this inclusion, possibly as an agenda item for the July Board meeting. The adjustment would be a \$17.00 increase (current price of the crossbow license) and would increase the cost of the Sportsman's license to \$119.00, up from the current \$102.00. This increase is consistent with the Code.

HB 2031 calls for the Board to promulgate regulations applicable to the commercial operations of parasail operators. This bill becomes effective July 1, 2007 and the staff is currently working to have these regulations considered during the upcoming regulatory cycle.

HB 2308 requires the Board to develop, through regulations, model ordinances for hunting with firearms; a locality may adopt any of the model ordinances developed by the Board. Staff indicated that model ordinances are intended to bring consistency to local firearms hunting ordinances. The Board will work with the staff to prepare these regulations and staff expects to work with the locality organizations (i. e. Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Municipal League, etc.) for input into the draft ordinances and regulations.

HB2309 authorizes the Board to change the shotgun shell capacity through regulations.

SB 882 establishes a policy that there will be no net loss of public lands that are available for hunting in Virginia (Powers and Duties of the Board). Following the effective date of the bill (July 1, 2007), staff indicated that the Board may wish to take its own formal action to address this policy statement and would then include that in the Governance Manual.

HB 1981 authorizes the Board, beginning July 1, 2007, to adjust nonresident license fees by no more than \$50.00; any revision cannot be done any more frequently than once every three years. With this bill, the Committee was made aware that after July 1 it will have the authority to adjust the cost of nonresident licenses, even though the Board just concluded a complete revision of license fees last year.

HB 3118 and SB 883 were the Freedom of Information (FOIA) bills regarding the agency. These bills were referred to the FOIA Advisory Council and staff is to provide an update at the next meeting.

HB 1627 and SB 1241 are the boater education bills. As detailed in the legislation, staff will be working with the boating community in the development of Board regulations to implement the many aspects of the education requirement. These regulations must be in place by July 1, 2008. Staff will be working on a timeline of having the regulations ready for Board presentation at its meeting in January 2008.

The Law Enforcement Division presented a sample badge and sample patch that will reflect the new name change from Game Warden to "Conservation Police". These will be ready for approval at the March Board meeting. The name change was approved during the 2007 General Assembly session (**HB 1867**).

There were two budget amendments that will have an impact on the agency. Both amendments earmark watercraft sales and use tax dollars for a particular use.

Strategic Planning Update: The staff presented an update on the strategic planning process. Teams are being formed to review the performance measures and objectives included in the plan. This information will be included in the budget submission.

The next meeting of the Education, Planning and Outreach Committee will be at 3:30 on May 8, 2007.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Drewery
Board Secretary