

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

**January 28, 2014
9:00 am**

Present: Mr. Curtis Dixon Colgate, **Chairman**, Mr. Ben Davenport, **Vice-Chairman**, Mr. Garry Gray, Mr. Hugh Palmer, Ms. Lisa Caruso, Mr. Leon Turner, Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Charles Cunningham, Dr. Mark Winkler; **Absent:** Mr. David Bernhardt, Mr. Scott Reed; **Executive Director:** Mr. Robert W. "Bob" Duncan; **Legal Counsel:** Mr. Matt Gooch, **Senior Leadership Team:** Mr. Ryan Brown, Dr. Joice Conyers, Mr. Larry Hart, Colonel Ron Henry, Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Lee Walker, Mr. David Whitehurst.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:14 am and welcomed everyone and noted for the record that a quorum was present for the meeting. Mr. Davenport read the mission statement and Sgt. Brandon Woodruff led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman announced there would be a Closed Session during the Board meeting.

Recognition of Employees and Others: The Chairman called on the Director for an introduction. The Director introduced the new Secretary of Natural Resources, Ms. Molly J. Ward and Assistant Secretary Mr. Evan Feinman. The Chairman recognized Mr. Mike Liford from the Nature Conservancy for a presentation. Mr. Liford presented Mr. Robert W. "Bob" Duncan with an award. The Director recognized Mr. Clyde Roberts and his family. Mr. Roberts was honored as Virginia's oldest, active deer hunter by both the VA Deer Hunter's Association and the Department. Mr. Denny Quaiff from the VA Deer Hunters Association was on hand to make a special presentation to Mr. Roberts.

The Chairman recognized and welcomed Mr. Leon Boyd, the new Board member from the Ninth Congressional District.

Approval of the October 17, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the October 17, 2013 meeting had been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chairman called for a motion to approve the October 17, 2013 minutes as presented. Mr. Cunningham made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented and Mr. Palmer seconded the motion. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham.

Public Comments – Non Agenda Items: The Chairman called for Public Comments Non-Agenda Items.

Mr. Jon Robertson from Disputanta, Virginia representing the VA Bowhunters Association spoke regarding HB 1237, SB 154, HB 26 and SB 36.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Robertson for his remarks.

Wildlife Foundation: Ms. Jenny West gave an update on the Wildlife Foundation and thanked the Board for attending the Wildlife Foundation reception the previous evening.

The Chairman and Director thanked Ms. West for her remarks.

Mr. Matt Gooch from the AG's office arrived at 9:45 am
Dr. Winkler arrived at 9:50 am

The Chairman introduced Mr. Craig LeSchack, Director, Conservation Programs of the Southeast Unit of Ducks Unlimited who gave an update on Wetlands in Canada.

The Chairman and Director thanked Mr. LeShack for his update.

Committee Reports:

Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee: Ms. Caruso, Chairwoman of the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee reported the committee met on January 27, 2014.

Colonel Ron Henry gave a Law Enforcement update.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman and Director thanked Colonel Henry for his update.

The Chairwoman introduced Mr. Dave Steffen, Terrestrial Science Team Coordinating Scientist, who gave the Virginia Wild Turkey Management Plan.

Mr. Frederick Payne from Albemarle County and Mr. Steve Fritton from Hanover County two of the Citizens Advisory group members came to the podium to speak concerning the Virginia Wild Turkey Management Plan. Both individuals spoke favorably regarding the process and the DGIF staff.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman and Director thanked Mr. Steffen for his presentation.

A motion was made by Ms. Caruso and seconded by Mr. Turner to approve the Turkey Plan as presented. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham, Winkler.

The Chairwoman introduced Mr. Gary Martel and Mr. Tom Guess who gave the Fishing, Boating, and Non-Game Regulation Issues.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman and Director thanked Mr. Martel and Mr. Guess for their presentation.

A motion was made by Ms. Caruso and seconded by Mr. Turner to approve the Fishing, Boating, and Non-Game Issues as presented. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham, Winkler.

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee: Mr. Davenport, Chairman of the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee reported that the committee met on January 14, 2014 and he gave an update on the Semi-Annual Finances and an Audit update.

After discussion and questions, the Chairman and Director thanked Mr. Davenport for his report.

Education, Planning, and Outreach: Mr. Gray, Chairman of the Education, Planning, and Outreach reported that the committee met on January 27, 2014. Mr. Gray introduced Mr. Ryan Brown for a presentation.

Mr. Ryan Brown gave an overview of the 2014 Legislative Session

After discussion and questions, the Chairman and Director thanked Mr. Brown for his report.

The Chairman announced a 10 minute recess before going into the Closed Session.

Closed Session: The Chairman called for a motion to move into a Closed Meeting.

Mr. Leon Boyd made the following motion:

**Closed Meeting Motion
January 28, 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Board 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 property with respect to:

- (i) The potential acquisition of interest in real properties located in Accomack County, Brunswick County, and Mecklenburg County.*

And finally, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.7 of the Code of Virginia for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice, specifically regarding:

- (i) The relocation of DGIF Headquarters.*

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

It was by seconded by Ms. Caruso. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham, Winkler.

The Board reconvened at 12:55 pm

Dr. Winkler moved the following Certification.

**Certification of Closed Meeting
January 28, 2014**

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 hereby 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.

It was seconded by Mr. Turner.

The Board Secretary conducted the following voice roll call vote:

Gray – Aye
Colgate – Aye
Palmer – Aye
Caruso – Aye
Davenport - Aye
Turner – Aye
Boyd – Aye
Cunningham – Aye
Winkler – Aye

The Chairman called on Mr. Davenport for a motion.

Mr. Davenport moved that the Board authorize the Director to proceed to acquire by easement approximately 6.45 acres of land in Brunswick County and Mecklenburg County, Virginia and such authorizations shall be according to the state procedures.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham, Winkler.

The Chairman called on Mr. Davenport for a motion.

Mr. Davenport moved that the Board authorize the Director to acquire approximately 190 acres in Accomac County, Virginia and such acquisition shall be according to the applicable state procedures.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham, Winkler.

The Chairman called on Ms. Caruso for a motion.

Ms. Caruso moved that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries vest its Chairman and Vice Chairman with authority to act on behalf of the full Board on issues relating to the new headquarters while between its meetings subject to final confirmation of the full Board.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham, Winkler.

The Chairman called on Mr. Gray for a motion.

Mr. Gray moved the Chairman has permission to speak on behalf of the Board in communicating its support of the Executive Director in his efforts to correct deficiencies found in the current audit.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Caruso. Ayes: Gray, Colgate, Palmer, Caruso, Davenport, Turner, Boyd, Cunningham, Winkler.

Director's Report: The Director reported on the following items:

The Director recognized Bob Ellis for an update on Elk Restoration – with plans proceeding to relocate and release up to fifty elk from Kentucky this spring in Buchanan County. Mr. Ellis also provided an update on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) with two more positive cases found in deer this past season. This brings the total number of positives to seven animals. The Director recognized David Whitehurst for an update on the Wildlife Conflict Helpline which handled nearly 1,300 calls between the start date of late September through the end of December 2013.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Duncan and staff for their updates.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported on the following items:

Committee Assignment: Mr. Leon Boyd will serve on the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee
WFV Liaison: Mr. Hugh Palmer
Nominations Committee: Mr. Leon Turner, Ms. Lisa Caruso, Mr. Hugh Palmer, Mr. Scott Reed
The Board workshop will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Additional Business:

Next Meeting Date: The Chairman announced the next meeting date will be the Board Workshop on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 2:00 pm and the next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 9:00 am.

Adjournment: The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

