

**WILDLIFE AND BOAT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**4016 WEST BROAD STREET**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2006, 5:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Jimmy Hazel, Chairman and John W. Montgomery, Board Chairman;  
**Director:** J. Carlton Courter, III; **Senior Staff:** Bob Duncan, Mike Bise, Gary Martel, Virgil Kopf and David Whitehurst. **Absent:** Ward Burton, Dr. William T. Greer, Jr., Richard Railey, Charles Yates.

Chairman Hazel called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Chairman Hazel noted for the record that a quorum was not present. Items requiring committee action would be held until the next meeting.

**Fisheries and Regulations Updates:** The staff briefed the committee on the current regulation proposals. Letter has been received from the Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) supporting these proposals. The comment period has closed and very few negative comments received. The staff will continue to move forward with recommending that the Board adopt as proposed.

**Boating and Safety Education:** Staff requested, Mr. Ed Rhodes speak on behalf of the Smith Mountain Lake Association regarding HB 1627 Boating Safety Education. This bill has been introduced by Delegate Byron for the 2007 General Assembly. This is a carry over bill from the 2006 Session. Mr. Rhodes presented the committee with prepared speaking points from the Virginia Safe Boating Alliance in support of recreational boating safety education in Virginia. The Alliance will use these points when speaking with members of the General Assembly.

**New Funding initiative and the Wildlife Action Plan:** The staff briefed the committee on a cooperative funding initiative that DGIF is exploring in partnership with: The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land and Virginia Forever. Virginia Forever is a coalition formed in 2002 -2003 in response to the fact that Virginia was last in spending per capita for natural resources. This group raises funds for natural resources in the state and will provide the state coordination on the initiative. The Trust for Public Land has a feasibility research section to assist with finding additional funding options and they can help assess these options. The Nature Conservancy can provide the policy forum for the initiative. VDGIF can provide state-specific information about past efforts, social climate, etc. The focus of the plan is to raise funding to the implement the land conservation components of the Wildlife Action Plan. Operational and Marketing Funding is also necessary to the implementation of this plan. A needs assessment will be conducted to determine the amount of funding at state and federal levels. The assessment will be paid for through the Doris Duke Foundation. The plan should be ready for the 2008 General Assembly. Staff is working on forming a Virginia Coalition Working Group to gather support of the plan at the State and Federal levels. Staff will provide updates as needed to the committee.

**Updates and Revisions on the following: (1) Wildlife Disease; (2) Sunday Hunting Survey Status Report; (3) The Virginia White-Tailed Deer Plan.**

**Wildlife Disease:** The staff briefed the committee on different surveillance operations that are being conducted in reference to the Avian Influenza (AI), CWD, and the observation of unusual behavior in the deer population in Northern Virginia (Loudoun, Fauquier). Specimens are being collected from the deer population in this area to determine the problem (dietary, environmental or disease). An update on this situation will be provided at a later date.

**Sunday Hunting Survey:** The staff briefed the committee on the survey. Forty percent of the surveys have been received. Results should be available by January 3rd. After discussion by committee and staff, Chairman Hazel asked for comments from the public.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Phoebe VanValen represented the Richmond Chapter of the Audubon Society stated that the Society is unanimously against Sunday hunting. Mr. Hazel thanked Ms. VanValen for remarks and attendance at the meetings.

Mr. Butch Ammon, 1226 Blue Jay Lane, Richmond, Virginia stated that he is a leading advocate of Sunday hunting. Chairman Hazel thanked Mr. Ammon for his remarks.

Mr. Donald Miller, Citizen, Chesterfield, County, Virginia. He supports Sunday Hunting. Chairman Hazel thanked Mr. Miller for his remarks.

Chairman Hazel emphasized that the Board and DGIF are in the beginning stages of this process. The Board and the agency does not have a position on the issue or any proposed legislation and any changes in the current law will be through the General Assembly.

**The Virginia White-Tailed Deer Plan:** The staff briefed the committee on the revisions to the plan. The updated plan will continue through 2015. Board members will receive copies at the December meeting.

There being no further business or additional comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth B. Drewery  
Board Secretary