

FINAL Board Meeting Minutes  
Board of Game and Inland Fisheries  
7870 Villa Park Drive  
Henrico, Virginia 23228

January 11, 2017  
9:00 am

**Present:** Mr. Bill Bolling, **Chairman**, Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. H. S. Caudill, Ms. Nicole Butterworth, Mr. Chuck Cunningham, Mr. Clayton Spruill, Mr. Esther Nizer, Mr. Douglas Dear, Mr. Watkins Abbitt; **Absent:** Ms. Catherine Claiborne, Mr. Leon Turner; **Executive Director:** Mr. Robert W. “ Bob” Duncan; **Senior Leadership Team;** Mr. Lee Walker, Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Darin Moore , Mr. Tom Guess, Major Scott Naff, Major Bryan Young, Dr. Gray Anderson, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. David Whitehurst. Mr. Matt Hull from the Attorney General’s office was in attendance.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:00 am and welcomed everyone and noted for the record that a quorum was present for the meeting. Chairman Bill Bolling led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Douglas Dear read the mission statement. The Chairman announced there would be a closed session during the Board meeting.

**Recognition of Employees and Others:** Chairman Bill Bolling recognized and welcomed Mr. Douglas Dear as a new Board member.

The Chairman called on the Director for recognitions.

The Director recognized Major Bryan Young and Major Scott Naff as the new majors in law enforcement.

The Director recognized Mr. Tom Guess as the new Legislative and Policy Manager and Dr. Gray Anderson as the new Deputy Director of the Bureau.

The Director recognized and thanked Ms. Nikki Rovner, Associate State Director with The Nature Conservancy for attending our Board meeting today.

**Approval of the October 20, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the October 20, 2016 board meeting have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the October 20, 2016 Board minutes as submitted. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd. Ayes: Spruill, Bolling, Butterworth, Abbitt, Boyd, Caudill, Cunningham, Dear, Nizer

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

- Mr. Steve Nicely of Clifton Forge, VA spoke regarding Bear habitat

## **Committee Meeting Reports:**

### **Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee:**

The Chairman called on Mr. Watkins Abbitt for a report of the Wildlife, Boat, and Law Enforcement Committee who reported they held a meeting on January 10, 2017. Mr. Abbitt called on Dr. Gray Anderson to give an Overview of public scoping for the 2017-2018 Terrestrial Wildlife Regulation Review and Amendment Process.

Mr. Abbitt called on Dr. Gary Costanzo to give an Overview on Staff Recommendations for 2017-2018 Migratory Waterfowl Regulations.

After Dr. Costanzo's report, Mr. Abbitt made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I hereby move the board approve the 2017-18 Migratory Game bird season and bag limit recommendations and the Falconry season and bag limit recommendations as presented by staff, and further authorize staff to modify seasons and bag limits, if necessary, to comply with the final Federal Frameworks. Mr. Caudill seconded the motion. Ayes: Spruill, Bolling, Butterworth, Abbitt, Boyd, Caudill, Cunningham, Dear, Nizer.

Mr. Abbitt called on Dr. Mike Bednarski to give a report on The Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center and its role in restoring mussels within The Clinch and Powell Rivers.

- Brad Kreps of The Nature Conservancy, Charlottesville, VA spoke regarding The Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center

The Chairman thanked Dr. Anderson and Dr. Costanzo and Dr. Bednarski for their presentations.

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

- The Director thanked the Bear Hunters for attending today's meeting
- The Director called on Mr. Tom Guess to give an update on the Wake Boarding in Spotsylvania
- The Director called on Mr. Tom Guess to give an update on Legislative issues
- The Director thanked the Board members for attending the Wildlife Foundation reception
- The Director called on Mr. David Whitehurst for an Elk Stakeholder Planning update
- Announced the 2017 Turkey One Shot will be April 22, 2017

The Chairman called for a 5 minute break.

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 11:00 am

- The Director called on Mr. Lee Walker to present the 100 Anniversary video on the agency

With the Chairman's permission, Mr. Abbitt called on Ms. Jaime Sajecki and Major Scott Naff to give an update on the Bear situation across the state and answered questions asked by board members.

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

Ms. Butterworth read the Closed Session Motion.

*Closed Meeting Motion  
January 11, 2017*

Mr. Chairman,

*I move that the Board go into a closed meeting 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, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board, with respect to:*

*(i) Real property located in Highland, Nelson, New Kent, and Roanoke counties. Secondly, 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:*

*(i) The performance of the Director.*

*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 Director, the Bureau Director, the Real Property Manager, 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.*

It was seconded by Mr. Abbitt. Ayes: Bolling, Boyd, Caudill, Butterworth, Cunningham, Spruill, Nizer, Dear, Spruill

The Board went into Closed Session at 11:30 am.

The Board reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Ms. Butterworth read the Certification of the Closed Meeting.

*Certification of Closed Meeting  
January 11, 2017*

*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. Cunningham, Ayes: Spruill, Bolling, Butterworth, Abbitt, Boyd, Caudill, Cunningham, Dear, Nizer

The Board Secretary conducted the following voice roll call vote:

Mr. Spruill	Ms. Nizer
Mr. Bolling	Mr. Dear
Ms. Butterworth	Mr. Abbitt
Mr. Caudill	Mr. Boyd
Mr. Cunningham	

**Motion from the Closed Session:**

Mr. Douglas Dear made a motion, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board authorize the Director to proceed, to acquire approximately 1,598 acres in Roanoke County, Virginia, and Such authorization shall be according to state procedures. It was seconded by Ms. Butterworth. Ayes: Spruill, Bolling, Butterworth, Abbitt, Boyd, Caudill, Cunningham, Dear, Nizer

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman announced the next meeting will be Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 9:00 am. Hearing no further business or comments, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frances Boswell  
/s/

