

Draft Meeting Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive, Board Room
Richmond, Virginia 23228

March 19, 2025
2:00 pm

Present: Mr. Michael Formica, **Chair**, Mr. George Terwilliger, and Mr. Jon Cooper; **Board Members in attendance:** Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. Will Wampler, Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Ms. Laura Walters, Dr. Mamie Parker; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Mike Bednarski, Colonel John Cobb, Ms. Stacey Brown, Mr. Bob Smet, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Michael Lipford.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted for the record that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

14th Basic Academy Recruit Introductions: The Chair called on Captain Ivan Kopelove for a presentation.

Captain Ivan Kopelove gave an update on the new recruit class was the 20th anniversary of the Law Enforcement Academy and the 1st class that included another agency, this year being Virginia Marine Resources. Captain Kopelove had each recruit come forward and give their name, location of where they will be stationed and where they were from originally.

The Committee Chair and members and Executive Director asked the recruits questions and thanked them for being a part of Department and for attending the Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Meeting Minutes: The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025, committee meeting. Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the January 22, 2025 committee meeting. Mr. Formica second the motion. Ayes: Formica, Terwilliger, Cooper

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item.

- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Safety and law enforcement concerns
- Ms. Amanda Savignano spoke regarding issues this year
- Judge Charlton (virtual) Hound Hunting issues

The Chair thanked the speakers for their comments.

DWR Communications Center Overview: The Chair called on Communications Manager Nancy Morey for an Overview.

Communications Manager Nancy Morey gave a very informative overview of the DWR Communications Center and its operations and how it is manned on a 24 – 7 days a week.

Law Enforcement Chief Update: The Chair called on Colonel Cobb for an update.

Colonel Cobb reported:

- NAWLEA (North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation) has reached a significant milestone, going operational with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission completing their “Initial Assessment” and obtaining formal NAWLEA Accreditation their “Initial Assessment” and obtaining formal NAWLEA Accreditation during our Board Meeting on March 3rd.
- W3 (Woods *Wildlife*Water) Natural Resources Training Academy (Update)
 - Established Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives (Webpage)
 - Membership Program about to launch for individual donations
 - Preparing for corporate sponsors and partnership meetings
 - Planning to give a Progress Report to Law Committee later this year
- 7th Annual VCP Awards Ceremony – recognizing 62 officers/staff after the Committee meetings
- Attended the 90th North American Conference in Louisville, KY

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Colonel Cobb for his update.

Director’s Report: The Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his Director’s Report.

The Director reported:

- Very proud and impressed with our Law Enforcement and how they have moved ahead, becoming accredited, taking radio calls for other agencies, working heavily with sister agencies.

Chair’s Report:

The Chair thanked Law Enforcement staff for their presentations and always is appreciative of hearing the great work from law staff and enjoyed meeting the recruit class today.

The Chair announced the next Law Enforcement committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 21, 2025, and asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell